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THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2015

Council houses on way back? Page 9

READ THE GEM TOTALLY FREE EVERY WEEK ONLINE!
SIMPLY FOLLOW THE LINK MARKED 'THIS WEEK' FROM OUR WEBSITE (ABOVE)

Gareth Jamieson on Fast and Furious 7 Page 15

COWBRIDGE RFC SAYS 'BONJOUR' TO TWIN TOWN!

ABOVE: Cowbridge RFC played host to twin town Clisson over the bank holiday weekend, and enjoyed a rugby game played in some gorgeous spring weather, as well as a chance to meet friends old and new. (See more on page 3, and a full match report on page 36).

MAY FAIR'S ORGANISERS ARE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR TUG-OF-WAR TEAMS!

The 2013 winning team receive their trophy from rugby legend JPR Williams.

ORGANISERS of this year's Cowbridge May Fair – now less than a month away – are appealing for local people to enter tug-of-war teams in one of the event's main set pieces.

A spokesman for the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions told The GEM: " The Cowbridge May Fair programme is taking shape.

"On the stage there will be a variety of musical acts including pop/rock by CMBR, St Donat's Chorale, Cowbridge Rock Choir, CAOS and Stagecoach.

"On the field, there will be the traditional Maypole plus gymnastics, zumba, Taekwondo, fun races and tug-of-war.

"In addition, there WILL be a great variety of stalls both on the field and in the leisure centre."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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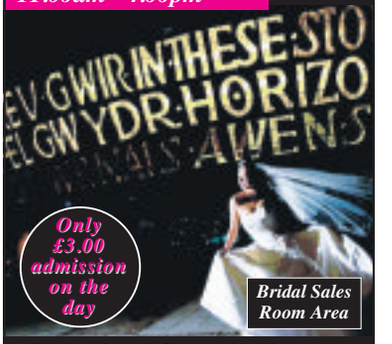

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Praise for the Welsh NHS hospital staff

FURTHER to a letter in last week's GEM, may I, too, add my thanks to our NHS, especially the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

My husband went there as an emergency admission when Llandough Hospital was full. The treatment he received was the best, especially when he had pneumonia, and if it had not been for the prompt attention of the nursing staff he might not be here now.

The staff were absolutely marvellous with us all through this ordeal, with patience and consideration, always a smile when appropriate, and a kind word when needed.

Unfortunately, my husband was then transferred to Heath Hospital. What a change – it was dirty and depressing. It seemed as though he was put there and then abandoned.

Luckily for us, the doctor dealing with my husband did a marvellous job and explained everything so it was not all bad. The nursing staff seemed to be under pressure all the time.

So, once again, many many thanks to the doctors and nursing staff.

Mrs Field,
Rhoose

'WE'RE THERE FOR THE GEM'
– and the local community!

CAN I say how much I appreciate the recent letter of thanks from Chris Samuel in The GEM.

Along with other local photographers, such as Glyn Evans and Ian Dixon, who also make regular contributions to The GEM, I feel the service we give is almost as important to the local community as The GEM itself! The free weekly newspaper provides news, information of forthcoming events, and an advertisers' noticeboard for over 40,000 readers – and in many areas it's delivered free of charge, too!

We cannot be all things to all people but we do try to 'be there' for The GEM.

Thanks again, Chris – and the folks at The GEM.

Mike Wilcock,
Llanblethian.

'NHS support is much appreciated'

IN last week's GEM – Thursday, April 2, there was a letter 'Long live the Welsh NHS' from a gentleman in Aberthin.

I find it a bit coincidental that I find myself in almost the same situation. I am 70 years old,and have regular blood tests and because of this, was eventually diagnosed with prostate cancer, and have now finished my hormone injections.

I had three, and I'm about to start the radiotherapy treatment next week at Velindre Hospital.

His sentiments I can only echo thus far. I sincerely hope that his full recovery continues at a pace.

Mr J Warner,
Cowbridge.

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VALE HOUSING: 'PLEASE LISTEN TO THE ARGUMENTS'

I DO wish that people, including the Vale of Glamorgan councillors, would listen to the arguments about new housing in the Vale, before jumping to the conclusion that those against any particular plan are automatically NIMBYists.

In general, there is little doubt that requirements for the next 10 or 11 years are based on false estimates which, even against the most optimistic of economic forecasts, are unbelievably flawed.

There also seems to be a reluctance to make best use of brownfield sites, rather than scarce agricultural land. A 'new settlement' at Llandow, Llandow Newedd, would meet most, if not all, requirements to 2025.

It also has the advantage of being close to the Cardiff/Vale/Bridgend line, which by then will be electrified.

As to Colwinston, the proposed development is intended for a village which has seen considerable expansion evolve over the last 40 years. What is more, locals seem more than amenable to this continuing into the future, to the extent that many properties could be developed one by one, or in small groups – as in St Michael's Close, on an infill basis.

Other villages must have similar potential, which would also have scope for genuinely 'affordable' properties.

Specifically in Colwinston, even gradual development would require a considerable investment in the electricity, water, drainage and sewerage infrastructure perhaps even the provision of natural gas.

We already suffer from regular sewage overflows into local streams and the current proposed site is subject to regular flooding. This is aside from highway congestion and the risk of serious safety issues in the immediate vicinity of the village school.

So, please, let us have an end to this hysterical and often politically-motivated argument, and put in its place a sensible and open-minded debate.

Peter Graham-Woollard, Colwinston.

Journey spoilt by unruly behaviour

ON Saturday, March 28, we caught the X2 from Cardiff to Cowbridge, which is usually a very pleasant journey.

Unfortunately, as we got on, so did four 'parents' and seven children – and it really all went south from there.

To be honest, the women may have been teachers or supervisors, but not once (until their respective stop was looming) did they exercise any supervision of these children, who spent their time shouting and running around the front of the bus.

Why do children seem to become the property of someone else once they enter the open air or a public space?

Each of these women got off at different stops and apart from waving at each other, they immediately went back to talking: ignoring the remaining children.

The only joy was hearing the noise diminish as they all got off. The journey was spoilt for us.

Name and address supplied.

Housing in Bonvilston: *'fears confirmed'*

HAVING viewed the proposed Bonvilston housing plans, presented by the Acorn Property Group and Village Homes at Cottrell Park last Thursday, we would like to express our concerns.

Firstly, the plans confirmed our initial reservations regarding the scale of this development (120 new homes) which will dominate the village, rather than complement it.

Secondly, the resultant significant increase in traffic (approximately 240 additional cars), will exacerbate the existing congestion problems experienced from Culverhouse Cross back to Bonvilston, and also through the Pendoylan and Peterston lanes at peak times.

The developers' proposal to widen the relatively short section of road from the Sycamore Cross lights to the Pendoylan/Peterston junction is flawed, and will simply funnel the problem to these two pinch points.

Finally, it is a real shame that such proposals as this will result in further loss of green field countryside, which is a key attribute of the Vale.

Therefore, one has to question both the ethics and the strategy of the council if they further support this proposal; and we hope that other Vale residents will join together to oppose this, and similar proposals, as together we will have a stronger voice.

Sue and Neil Annetts,
Bonvilston

Club's concerns at Bonvilston

I NOTE with interest your article in last week's GEM in respect of the proposed development at Sycamore Cross, Bonvilston.

While appreciating the benefit to the local pub and village shop, and also not forgetting the Presbyterian and Anglican churches, I have serious concerns regarding some of the comments made by the developers.

It is noted the Vale Council has specified road improvements must be made to the lane which leads to Pendoylan which, as reported, is often grid-locked due to the high volume of traffic attempting to get to the M4 junction at Miskin.

I do hope this includes improvement to the length of the road leading to Pendoylan, and not just widening a small section of the road immediately outside the proposed development.

My other concern was regarding the suggestion that those purchasing a property on this new development would have direct access to the golf course.

While in theory this is correct, I should point out that there is only one official starting point at Cottrell Park for those wishing to play golf and that is the first tee.

Prior to commencing play, everyone is expected to report to the reception desk in the main office.

There is nothing more annoying to the loyal club golfer than to see others jumping in halfway around, causing anger and delay to those complying with the rules at any golf club.

Tony L McCarthy,
Tre-Dodridge.

Right to know who funds the campaigns

THANK YOU for publishing my letter last week, regarding party funding for the election campaign.

You added an introductory note to clarify that the Conservative Party wrap-around advert was paid for and does not reflect the views of The Gem, which prides itself on its impartiality.

Just to be clear: I accept both points absolutely.

My query related to who is funding the campaigns of our election candidates? Is it local people within the constituency? If not, where is the money coming from?

For example, The Guardian has revealed that 27 of the 59 wealthiest hedge fund managers in the Sunday Times Rich List have personally donated – or seen their fund donate – more than £19m to the Tories.

The same individuals have benefited considerably from Government tax breaks.

Vast sums of money have been spent on party political election materials in this constituency and voters have a right to know who is funding the campaigns.

Jeff Evans,
Llantwit Major.

(See more letters on the paid-for wrap advertisement on page 17).

Parking – A DOUBLE BLOW

ONCE again, I wonder what the powers that be are up to – with car park charges for Wyndham Street, Thompson Street and Beryl Road.

As a resident of Maes y Cwm Street, the parking is bad already.

Park enforcement officers come around here as often as an eclipse, and only put tickets on residents' cars whose permits are a few days out of date!

It's more of a kicking for shop owners in Holton Road, as one of the big supermarkets opens a store on their doorstep with free parking!

Well, if this charge is just in the pipeline, let it go down the sewer!

Shane Overton,
Barry.

See more readers' letters on page 16.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL APRIL 16)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
09 Thur	09.59	9.2	22.21	9.1
10 Fri	10.44	8.9	22.58	8.8
11 Sat	11.28	8.5	23.56	8.3
12 Sun			12.31	8.0
13 Mon	01.11	7.9	13.55	7.9
14 Tues	02.38	8.0	15.21	8.2
15 Wed	03.58	8.5	16.34	8.6
16 Thur	05.02	9.2	17.31	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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A team take the strain during the tug of war two years ago.

CALLING ALL TUG OF WAR TEAMS!

Your May Fair needs you!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The spokesman continued: "For children there will fairground attractions on the field and soft play in the leisure centre. At 2pm there will be a 'bonny baby' competition, judged by Jane Hutt AM.

"It really will be all the fun of a traditional May Fair".

The Lions are particularly keen to see a strong tug of war competition, as it has been a traditional contest of strength at fairs, and can trace its origins back to ancient times.

Between 1900 and 1920, the tug of war was an Olympic sport and in the 1908 London games, Great Britain took all three medals.

Many Cowbridge residents remember that tug of war contests were part of 'Cowbridge Week' – which ran from 1968 through to 1981.

The pull was done across the River Thaw with the losing teams ending up in the water! Health and Safety was less of a consideration in those days!

At the 2013 Cowbridge May Fair, the Tug-of-War Shield was won by the Town Crier's team in a hard-fought 'pull off' against a team from Filco Cowbridge.

The spokesman said: "The Town Crier is ready to defend the title but challengers are needed. If you would like to enter a team, please contact Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions via the web site *www.lmandclions.org.uk* or by email *infoi@lmandclions.org.uk*

"If you can't put together a team then just turn up and have a go. You may be roped into a team!"

HISTORY TALK

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at 7.30pm in Kynance Hall, when there will be an illustrated talk on 'Osborne House, Isle of Wight' by Phil Bowen.

An administrative fee of £1.50 for members and £3 for non-members will be payable at the door and visitors are welcome. Enquiries to Betty Williams on 02920 513524.

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Archbishop visits St Cadoc's Llancarfan and welcomes Canon Derek to new parish

PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

ABOVE (left to right): Rev Mark Dimond (Archbishop's Chaplain); The Most Reverend Barry Morgan; Canon Derek Belcher; The Venerable Peggy Jackson (Archdeacon of Llandaff).

CANON Derek Belcher officially retired as Rector of Cowbridge on March 24, and the following day a service was held to licence him as Priest-in-Charge of a neighbouring parish.

His new post, at the parish of Penmark with Llancarfan with Llantrithyd, is part time on a house for duty basis. He will also be the Associate Priest of Porthkerry and Rhoose.

The licensing service, held at St Cadoc's, Llancarfan, was conducted by the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Reverend Barry Morgan.

Canon Belcher was ordained in 1977, and his first post was as curate in Newton Nottage. He was priest vicar in Llandaff Cathedral for six years (1981 to 1987) and then served for 14 years as Vicar of Margam.

He has been Rector of Cowbridge for a similar length of time – 14 years.

Rugby club welcome their French guests!

PICTURED above is the presentation from Cowbridge RFC chairman John Griffiths to Clisson chairman Jean Paul after the two sides met on Sunday in glorious sunshine. It was a great day for rugby, and a full report can be found on page 36.

Insole Court, a mansion hidden in the heart of Cardiff, is to re-open!

IT'S not often that a talk is presented by a man who has been dead for nearly 100 years, but that was the experience of Cowbridge U3A history group members at the March 2015 meeting.

John Prior-Morris, suitably attired in the guise of Fred Insole, a member of the Insole family during its heyday, gave a lecture that proved to be a fascinating, amusing and informative history of the Industrial Revolution in south Wales and the benefits accrued by the Insole family as pit owners and coal merchants over three generations, commencing with George Insole in the 18th century.

Coal mining activities at Cymmer in the Rhondda , and elsewhere, as well as an interest in the development of Barry Docks, produced the wealth that enabled Fred's father, James Insole, to transform his small country house into "the grandest house in Llandaff" by the end of the 19th century; Insole Court even had flushing toilets!

The Edwardian period was a golden age for the house with its superb gardens and large staff. When he took possession, Fred remodelled the building over the period 1906-1909, changing Victorian Gothic style to English Renaissance.

Our speaker, Fred Insole, died in 1917 and the estate passed to his son, Claude, an Army officer who was killed in action a year later. These were not only devastating personal events for the family, but meant two charges of death duty were levied on the estate, a financial disaster.

The family fortunes plummeted and in 1932, threatened by the building of Western Avenue which would split the estate in two, the house and gardens were sold to Cardiff Corporation. The last Insoles vacated the mansion in 1938.

Insole Court remains a Victorian mansion hidden in the heart of Cardiff and, now under the stewardship of the Insole Court Trust for the benefit of the community, is undergoing a multi-million renovation due for completion later in 2015.

Make a note to visit the house when it re-opens!

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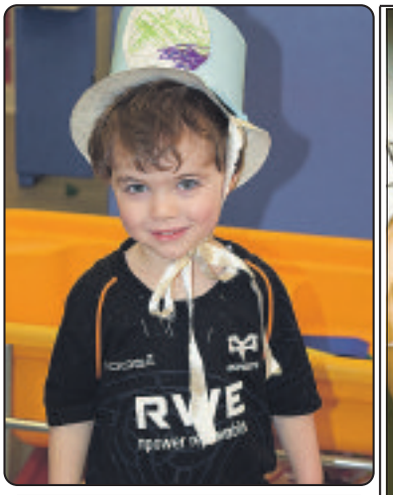
Local nursery children celebrate Easter by putting on their own bonnet parade

COWBRIDGE youngsters enjoyed a visit from the Easter bunny and took part in a bonnet parade too.

The fun took place at Fun Foundations Nursery and local photographer Mike Wilcock was on hand to capture all the fun.

The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK.
They are available to order from wilcock60@aol.com or telephone 01446 774502.



French rugby 'vets' receive a warm welcome

Coun Peter Knapp with Jean-Paul Reyberolle.

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp and the Mayoress, Mrs Jo Knapp, welcomed the 'Pousseurs de Barriques', rugby veterans' team from Clisson, France, at a ceremony in the Mayor's Parlour on Easter Saturday.

Also present were members of the Cowbridge Rugby Club and members of the Cowbridge Town Twinning Association, including Coun Gwen Baty.

Clisson, near Nantes, is twinned with Cowbridge.

The president of Les Pousseurs de Barriques, M Jean-Paul Reyberolle, thanked the Mayor and the Twinning Association for their welcome and presented the Mayor with a rugby ball produced to mark the centenary of their club.

Signed by participants in the match between Cowbridge and Clisson veterans, it will be put on on display in the Town Hall.

M Reyberolle also presented the Mayor with a green kerchief bearing the 'Les Pousseurs de Barriques' logo and with a case of Muscadet wine.

M Reyberolle said that the veterans' club had been founded in 1910. At the time, rugby was played mostly by the wine growers of Clisson and they built up their strength by pushing barrels of wine. 'Pousseurs de Barriques' means 'Barrel Pushers'.

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There's plenty of food for thought in 'The Cardiff Clink'

WHERE is the best place to eat out in Cardiff? There are lots of good places, but not many people's first choice would be HM Prison Cardiff.

Yes, that's right, the prison in Adamstown. But surely, you think, the only way I'm going to eat prison food is if I'm doing 'porridge' for some wicked action that's finally caught up with me.

Well, you'd be wrong, because there's now a restaurant at the prison serving fine food to anyone who walks in off the street and wants a good meal, and, not surprisingly, it's called 'The Clink'.

Cowbridge Rotary Club had a fascinating and enlightening presentation by two of its organisers, Jason Lawrence and Royston Sumersall.

So what's the point of having a restaurant at the prison? Surely the purpose of sending someone to prison is a payback to society, not for them to learn new knife skills? Well, this talk made people think.

Going to prison can be expensive; it costs £46,000 per annum to keep each prisoner, and the re-offending rate nationwide when released is about 47 per cent, as they go back to their old ways.

ROYSTON SUMERSALL, MIKE MacPHAIL, JASON LAWRENCE.

However, those who've worked at 'The Clink' don't follow the national trend. They now have skills and qualifications which are in demand. They may have NVQ Level 3 Customer Service or NVQ Level 2 Cookery. They have learned a work ethic of consistent delivery, six days a week, from 7am to 4pm, under a zero tolerance policy, maybe for the first time in their lives.

And the result? To date, none of them have re-offended. The Ministry of Justice is happy; this policy works. Of the 35 released, 28 are in full-time employment, and one who 'couldn't boil water' when he started is now a deputy pastry chef in London.

So what does it cost to eat in at 'The Clink'? There's a seasonal menu, and prices range from £8 to £14 and there are enough seats for 85 diners.

And is the food any good? Well, why not find out for yourself? Your friends will be very intrigued when you say you love prison food!

ANDY BANKS

Library events

NEW events at Cowbridge Library on Mondays from April 13 – Clap, tap and rhyme 10.30am-11am. Stories, songs and rhymes for 0-4 year olds.

Thursdays from April 16 – Amswer Twf 10am-11am. Story and rhyme sessions in Welsh for babies under one year old.

Save the date!

FRIDAY, September 11 sees the 18th birthday celebration of Y Bont at Coed yr Mwstwr Hotel, with a three-course meal and entertainment.

To register an interest, email fundraising@ybont.com

Defibrillator is presented to community of Llanmaes at recent training event

LEFT: Left to right at the presentation are: Jackie Wright, David Harries, Lizabeth Evans Welsh Heart trainer, and Byron Evans.

FOURTEEN people recently attended a defibrillator training event at Llanmaes Village Hall.

A defibrillator was presented to the community thanks to contributions by the charity Welsh Hearts, the Llanmaes community and First Responders.

Among those taking part in the training session were people from the Llantwit Major area and Cowbridge.

Another training session will be taking place soon in Llantwit Major and The GEM will publicise more details once they become available.

PASTELS DEMO AT ART SOCIETY

ON Thursday, April 23, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Abergavenny artist Jantien Powell who will give a demonstration using pastels.

Jantien is an accomplished artist and experienced tutor who always gives a very fascinating and informative demonstration, and who is well worth seeing. (See www.chapelcottagestudio.co.uk)

The society meetes on Thursday evenings at Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm and visitors and new members are most welcome. *For details of the society's activities, see ww.cowbridgeartsociety.com*

Following in the steps of the Incas

MEMBERS of Ystradowen and District WI met in the village hall on April 1 when the speaker, Mike Baker again entertained us.

With his wife, Jean, he had set out for an amazing trip to the fascinating country of Peru. They flew via Amsterdam to Lima, the capital city of Peru on the Pacific coast. It boasts impressive Spanish architecture and we saw pictures of some very colourful parkland areas.

The impressive cathedral was built in 1535 but, sadly, there are areas of extreme poverty. They left Lima and travelled on to Arequipa, 2,300 metres above sea level.

They travelled on, always climbing to higher altitudes. They saw the Colca canyon which is twice as large as the Grand Canyon. This is the only place in the world where you can see the Condor with its amazing wing span of nine feet.

Above all else, visitors go to Peru to see the remains of the Inca civilisation. We marvelled at the pictures of their stone walls standing for many centuries. Mike and Jean visited the most famous site of the Inca civilisation Machu Picchu.

Irena gave a vote of thanks.

We look forward to two outside events this month. The BBC studios on April 21 when the bus leaves Ystradowen at 1.15pm. On April 28, we will go to the Mumbles for lunch and a fashion show by a local boutique Solo. The bus will leave Ystradowen at 10am and return at 3pm.

The monthly walk will take place on April 15 and coffee in the vestry on 22nd. The May meeting will be held on May 6 (annual meeting and resolutions). Glenda Bell agreed to present the resolution to members.

EL

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The Island enjoys an Easter bonanza... *but traffic jams still a problem*

by GEM REPORTER

GLORIOUS weather and the return of the Pleasure Park combined to make last weekend one of the busiest on Barry Island in recent years.

Thousands of people descended on the world famous resort by train, car, bus and on foot. It meant a bonanza for local businesses.

One disappointment for visitors was the return of the Island bottleneck as cars queued on roads and in car parks as people made their way home.

Some daytrippers left cars on the Island and returned home by train. Others took to social media – Jonathan Davies appealed to South Wales Police on Twitter at 4.19pm on Sunday: "Been stuck in Barry Island car park for well over an hour now, are you going to sort this traffic problem? Entire car park waiting."

SECOND ROAD

South Wales Police took to Twitter and responded: "Police are not responsible for traffic management, but are in attendance to assist the Vale of Glamorgan council to resolve this matter."

The next day the police warned: "Visitors to Barry Island are reminded of the expected delays today. We urge visitors to plan their journey and be patient."

Local councillor Nic Hodges said completion of a second road to the Island was vital.

"It won't answer all of the traffic problems that residents and tourists face, but it should help with getting emergency services on and off the Island, and provide an alternative route to reduce the traffic congestion.

"Until then, the Vale Council needs to take responsibility for ensuring free-flowing traffic around the Island so that it doesn't snarl up, as it did on the weekend."

Regional Assembly Member Andrew RT Davies commented: "The new road will eventually improve access to the area, but in the meantime there are two further bank holiday weekends to come.

"A repeat of this weekend's gridlock would do immeasurable harm to Barry Island's reputation and if you believe some of the comments on Twitter, could put some people off returning in future."

One Barry councillor, Richard Bertin, called on the Vale Council to introduce a park and ride scheme on Sundays and bank holidays using car parks in the town.

'INCREDIBLE'

On a positive note, he praised the Danter family for managing to bring the Pleasure Park back to use in such a short space of time.

"In just 96 hours they did it and they really have done well. A big thank you must now go to the Danter family for bringing the Barry Island Pleasure Park back to life. They really have worked hard to get it ready in time for Easter.

"I cannot believe that they have done so much in so little time – it's incredible!

"With a further £20m planned in investment, the future of Barry Island is looking good."

Alun Cairns said he had visited the Island a number of times over the weekend.

"Many of the traders have benefitted from a spectacular weekend with the kind weather helping enormously.

"It just goes to show that the fairground was worth fighting for – and I am so impressed with what the Danter family achieved in just a few days.

"I have seen the plans for the next stages on the site and they are incredibly exciting.

"I was very concerned to have seen the traffic problems that saw a number of visitors experience long delays in getting home. This could and should have been avoided. The Vale Council saw the work we did to bring the new fairground over many months, and everyone in Barry could have predicted a busy period."

The Vale Council acknowledged that traffic flow was still problematic, but emphasised that huge numbers had descended on the Island.

Miles Punter, director of visible services, said: "It was a delight to see so many people choosing to visit Barry Island this Easter weekend. However, as was the case at resorts across Wales, exceptionally high visitor numbers placed a significant strain on local roads.

"New traffic management arrangements were trialled over the weekend and while these had some effect it is clear that further changes are needed. A review of traffic management arrangements is taking place this week to establish what improvements can be made in readiness for next weekend.

"The new Barry Island link road, due to open this summer, will significantly reduce the strain on the existing single road to and from the resort. However, in the meantime we would encourage as many visitors as possible to travel to the Island by using the park and ride facility in place at Barry Docks station. Or, if they live locally, on foot."

Easter bunny raffle

I held a raffle just before Easter for Marie Curie – the prize was a 3kg Easter bunny.

Mr Alun John (above) kindly drew the winning ticket out for me on Easter Saturday and the winner was a lady from Penarth. We raised over £90 for the charity.

Philippa Tuckey,
Cocoa&Co, Cowbridge

Charity's spring craft fayre event

A LOCAL charity is inviting visitors to Cowbridge on Saturday, May 2, for the SHINE Cymru spring craft fayre in the Town Hall from 10.30am-3.30pm.

With free admission, there will be a chance to purchase original and unique work directly from local artisans. Teas and coffees will also be available.

Anyone interested in taking a table can do so at a cost of £10. Contact Sian Prince on 029 2081 3847 or email sianprince@shinecharity.org.uk for further details and booking form.

(Proceeds will go to SHINE Cymru (Spina bifida.Hydrocephalus.Networking.Equality).

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS/ NEWS

Retracing the landscape of Gwent iron industry

PENARTH and District Ramblers visited Gwent, where the Hanbury family gained their fortune, status and land from the iron industry and owned Pontypool Park where they entertained friends and members of the Royal family to hunting, shooting and picnic parties.

They built both the Folly and the Grotto on the hillside to enjoy the glorious views. Unfortunately for William and six companions on his 14-mile walk from Pontypool to Abergavenny, wind and rain blotted out most of those views.

Passing Coed Ithel Farm and steadily climbing up to the trig point on Mynydd Garn-wen, the search began for somewhere to have morning refreshment out of the high wind and driving rain, and luckily some rocks provided them with a bit of shelter.

Tramping on towards Mynydd y Garn-fawr, the passage across the open ridgeway left them exposed to a heavy battering from the elements, with only glimpses of their intended next target, Blorenge, through the rain.

Reaching Keeper's Pond, a reservoir especially built to supply water to nearby Garn Ddyrys Forge, the group entered part of the history of the industrial era, when Thomas Hill, who managed the Blaenavon Ironworks, daringly constructed a horse-drawn railway to carry iron and limestone along the tram roads and down the steep hillsides to Llanfoist Wharf in the Usk Valley below.

After a rapid lunch and a short trek along part of the grassy tramway, where the stone blocks on which the rails were mounted are still visible, Abergavenny came into sight and a steep descent led to Llanfoist Wharf on the Brecon to Abergavenny Canal, where several replica wagons are a reminder of the area's rich history.

Passing through a tunnel underneath the canal, an old stone bridge led them across the River Usk and into Castle Meadows for the journey to Abergavenny, for an enjoyable and warming cuppa in a local café, before the bus ride back to Pontypool.

On April 11, a 13-mile moderate continuation of the eastern section of the Wales Coast Path, meeting at Cardiff Central Station to catch the 8.30am train to Severn Tunnel Junction and walking back to the Newport Wetlands, with the return by bus/train; contact Terry on 029 2070 6315 if you require further information.

On April 14, meet at 8am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 12-mile hard walk from Blaen y Cwm, taking in Capel-y-ffin, Rhos Dirion and the Grwyne Fawr reservoir; contact William on 01446 77239.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

Notice of an application for the registration of land as a Town or Village Green

To: Every reputed owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of any part of the land described below, and to all others whom it may concern.

Application has been made to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by Dr Anne Jones, Chairperson on behalf of the Friends of Cowbridge Grammar School Cricket Field (an unincorporated body) under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons (Registration of Town or Village Greens) (Interim Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2007 ("the 2007 Regulations").

The application seeks the inclusion in the register of town and village greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a town or village green by virtue of the use of the area for lawful sports and pastimes as of right for more than 20 years prior to the date of the application.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration may be inspected by appointment at the Vale of Glamorgan Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU between the hours of 09.00 and 16:30 Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) (Contact Jocelyn Ham, Legal Services Department Tel. 01446 709406)

If the registration authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a town or village green, it will so register the land.

Any person wishing to object to the registration of the land as a town or village green should send a statement of the facts on which the objection is based to the Vale of Glamorgan Registration Authority, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4RU (for the attention of: Jocelyn Ham – Legal Services Department) on or before 29 May 2015. Any statements that are to be taken into account by the authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and will be copied to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties.

Dated 9 April 2015

Head of Legal Services
(on behalf of registration authority)

SCHEDULE

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a town or village green:

A parcel of land known as the Cricket Field of the former Cowbridge Grammar School and extending to an area of approximately 1.42 hectares (3.50 acres) and located at The Butts, Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7AP

DEDDF TIROEDD COMIN 2006 - ADRAN 15(1)

Hysbysiad o gais ar gyfer cofrestru tir fel Clwt Tref neu Bentref

I bob perchennog, prydleswr, tenant neu breswyliwr honedig unrhyw ran o'r tir a ddisgrifir isod, a phwy bynnag arall a fynno wybod.

Mae cais wedi'i gyflwyno i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg gan Dr Anne Jones, Cadeirydd Cyfeillion Cae Criced Ysgol Ramadeg Y Bont-faen (corff anghorfforedig) o dan adran 15(1) Deddf Tiroedd Comin 2006, ac yn unol â Rheoliadau Tiroedd Comin (Cofrestru Clytiau Tref neu Bentref) (Trefniadau Dros Dro) (Cymru) 2007 ("Rheoliadau 2007").

Mae'r cais yn gofyn am gynnwys y tir a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlen isod, yng nghofrestr clytiau pentrefi a threfi'r Awdurdod. Honnir bod y tir yn addas i'w gofrestru yn y modd yma am iddo gael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer chwaraeon ac adloniant cyfreithlon am fwy nag 20 mlynedd cyn dyddiad y cais dan sylw.

Mae modd archwilio'r cais, sy'n cynnwys cynllun o'r tir a gynigiwyd ar gyfer ei gofrestru, drwy drefnu ymweliad â Swyddfeydd Dinesig Bro Morgannwg, Heol Holton, Y Barri, CF63 4RU rhwng 9.00 y bore a 4:30 y prynhawn o ddydd Llun hyd ddydd Gwener (ac eithrio ar ŵyl y banc). (Ffoniwch Jocelyn Ham, Adran Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol ar 01446 709406)

Os bydd yr awdurdod cofrestru'n fodlon bod y tir a ddisgrifir isod yn addas i'w gofrestru fel clwt tref neu bentref, bydd yn mynd ati i wneud hynny.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wrthwynebu'r cais ar gyfer cofrestru'r tir fel clwt tref neu bentref, anfon datganiad i Awdurdod Cofrestru Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri, Bro CF63 4RU, gan nodi ei resymau dros ei wrthwynebu. Dylai anfon y datganiad un ai cyn 29 Mai 2015 neu ar y diwrnod hwnnw, a'i gyfeirio at Jocelyn Ham - Adran Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol. Ni fydd unrhyw ddatganiad sy'n cael ei ystyried gan yr awdurdod wrth benderfynu ar y cais, yn cael ei drin fel gwybodaeth gyfrinachol. Bydd copi ohono'n cael ei anfon at yr ymgeisydd ac y mae'n bosibl y caiff ei ddatgelu i rai eraill sy'n ymwneud â'r mater.

Dyddiedig 9 Ebrill 2015

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol
(ar gyfer yr awdurdod cofrestru)

ATODLEN

Disgrifiad o'r tir yr honnir ei fod yn gymwys ar gyfer ei gofrestru fel clwt tref neu bentref:

Clwt o dir a adwaenir fel Cae Criced hen Ysgol Ramadeg Y Bont-faen sy'n ymestyn dros ryw 1.42 hectar (3.50 erw) ac wedi'i leoli mewn stryd o'r enw 'The Butts' yn Y Bont-faen, Bro Morgannwg CF71 7AP

First Vale point-to-point of the year defies the weather – to provide a great day's racing

Some of the young spectators, who were wrappd up warm.

ABOVE (left to right): Clair Sherriff (owner); Mike Gibbon (joint master); Hywel Lougher (starter) and Hannah Grace.

THE first point-to-point of the season in the Vale, on March 28 at Ystradowen, did not benefit from the glorious weather that marked the easter weekend, but a day's racing was nevertheless enjoyed by all who came along.

Pictured (above) are some of the stewards who kept things running smoothly, as the riders and horses made a start on a new season of jump racing.

ALL PHOTOS by **HEATHER MARCH**

Fares are one way including taxes and charges, only available on Flybe.com, subject to availability. Advance purchase may be required. Headline fare does not apply to all routes. Selected flights operational from 01.06.15. See website for full schedule details. Available for travel until 24.10.15. Not all flights operate for the entire travel period. Route information correct at time of going to print. No debit card fees apply. Bookings made by credit card or PayPal will incur a fee of 3% of the total transaction value, with a minimum charge of £5.00 per booking.

The Barry RAFA AGM greets new president

Howard Provis receiving certificate of merit from out-going president Dave Crandon.

Dave Crandon receives a silver salver from Howard Provis, as in-coming president Jim Muir looks on.

AT the recent annual general meeting of the Barry branch of RAFA a presentation was made to Sdn Ldr D Crandon by branch secretary Howard Provis, of a silver salver, in appreciation of his 12 years as branch president. David is stepping down to concentrate on his work with the Air Cadets and will be greatly missed, especially for his sense of humour and for helping to forge closer links between the Barry branch and the Air Training Corps.

The branch, a registered charity, was also very pleased to welcome its new president Sqn Ldr Jim Muir who brings much experience and a new perspective to the role of president. Jim expressed how honoured and humbled he felt to be asked to take on the role of president of a very worthy, hard working branch and looked forward to supporting the team of volunteers.

The branch also presented Howard Provis with a certificate of merit for his contribution and guidance as secretary.

To assist in raising funds for the essential welfare work, the branch runs a monthly cash prize lottery and holds charity events throughout the year – details are available on its website at www.barryrafa247.co.uk or on www.facebook.com/barryrafa, or contact the secretary directly on 01446 418546.

HP

Why Vale mum of two is taking on a channel 'swim' for cancer charity

A VALE of Glamorgan mother of two young sons has a special motivation for taking on a 'Mid-summer Channel challenge' to raise funds for a leading cancer charity.

Sarah Fisher, of Cowbridge, is swimming the equivalent of 21 miles at a local swimming pool, in memory of her grandmother, Joanne 'Mimi' Hendrickson and her parents-in-law Louis and Carol Fisher – for Marie Curie Cancer Care, which runs nine hospices, including Penarth in the Vale.

Sarah explained: "Mimi, and my husband Robert's parents, Louis and Carol Fisher, were all lost to cancer. I have chosen Marie Cancer Care, because it provided an amazing level of care and compassion to my family when we needed it the most."

Her challenge is due to be completed on June 21 and she is appealing for help to "raise as much money as possible" for the charity.

"My challenge is to cumulatively swim the 21 miles/33,796 metres (approximately) between Samphire Hoe, England and Cap Gris Nez, France – equivalent to 1,352 lengths of the 25-metre pool.

"I hope people will help me to raise badly-needed funds for this very worthwhile cause," Sarah added.

• If you would like to support her, donations can be sent online to https:/www.justgiving.com/swimming-for-mimi

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT at Barry Town Council Offices, Gladstone Road, Barry on April 9 at 6.30pm.

CASTLELAND PACT at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry on April 13 at 7pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT at Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry on April 27 at 7pm.

RHOOSE COFFE & CHAT at the Blue Anchor, East Aberthaw on April 14 at 11am.

STANWELL PACT at Stanwell Comprehensive School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth on April 17 at 7pm.

Adult education in the Vale gets seal of approval

THE Welsh education inspectorate Estyn have reported that adult community learning in the Vale is in good shape.

The inspectors judged that the quality of teaching and learning in the sample of sessions observed was rated 'good', and learners across the partnership achieved a success rate of 80 per cent which was a significant rise of 12 per cent from the previous year.

The proportion of learners taking accredited courses has also increased, and learners on accredited course are succeeding at higher rates.

Following an inspection in 2013, adult community learning in the Vale is now provided through a partnership that includes Cardiff and Vale College, Cardiff Council, Welsh for Adults, WEA and the YMCA.

The inspectors reviewed progress across the partnership against the six recommendations made in 2013 and concluded that very good or strong progress has been made against each of the recommendations. Estyn have therefore removed the partnership from any further follow up activity.

Jennifer Hill, director of learning and skills at the Vale Council, commented: "We were very pleased indeed that Estyn recognised that the partnership has a clear focus on raising learners' standards of achievement.

"Adult learners in the Vale have responded very positively to all the recent changes, and I am grateful to them, our staff and our partners for the improvements that have been made over the last two years."

Dr Hussey inpects the new laundry room.

VISITORS SEE THE LATEST IN HEALTH CARE WORK

STAFF and service users recently welcomed the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Ruth Hussey, to Penarth, and Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gething AM to Barry– to take a tour of two successful health and social care projects in the Vale.

Dr Hussey visited Redlands House, a sheltered accommodation unit in Penarth, and was able to see first-hand how Welsh Government funding has been used to improve services.

Redlands House has been reconfigured to provide a safer environment and improved facilities, including two rehabilitation units that act as a 'step down' service which aims to assist individuals in regaining independence as quickly as possible. Older people are able to use the units while housing adaptations are being carried out in their own home.

The remodelling of the council's integrated health and social care customer contact centre in Barry has seen it achieve radical reductions in waiting times for adult social care services in the Vale. In 2013, the contact centre took responsibility for the out of hours GP service for the Vale and Cardiff.

During the last 12 months, it has accelerated rapidly to become the single point of contact for many of the people making enquires about health and social care services, with many benefits in terms of quicker response times and more joined-up services.

Phil Evans, Director of Social Services at the Vale Council said: "The triage work undertaken by the contact centre ensures that callers are directed to the right service first time, whether it's provided by the health service, the Vale Council, the voluntary sector, or all three working together."

"By providing a single point of contact for the people of the Vale, we have not only made our services easier to access but also significantly reduced response times for social care assessments.

At the same time, we have been making big improvements in our ability to provide joined up community health and social services that offer better reablement opportunities for people and good quality longer-term care."

Vale Model Boat Club issues a Knap invite

THE Vale Of Glamorgan Model Boat Club has officially been sanctioned by the Vale of Glamorgan Council to operate from the Cold Knap Lake in Barry, South Wales.

A club spokesman explained: "We are model boat enthusiasts, sailing model boats who are hoping to encourage other people from all age groups to join us and learn many skills.

"We would especially like to invite people with disabilities to come along, where access to the lake is very good, and support will always be available.

"We aim to support various charities, too – mainly the RNLI (Lifeboats) and the Royal British Legion – although we welcome other charities to request our help by way of static displays."

For more information on the club, call Rob on 07790 590 714; or email vofgmbc@hotmail.co.uk ; www.vgmbc.org/.

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Barry streets disappoint Keep Wales Tidy

A KEEP Wales Tidy survey shows Barry and Vale streets are getting dirtier.

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson this week expressed concern after a new Keep Wales Tidy survey found that streets in Barry and the Vale were dirtier than a year earlier.

He warned that cuts to street cleaning budgets and a new policy to charge for removal of bulky objects would make the situation even worse and asked the Vale Council to look again at litter enforcement officers – with the council having made no definitive decision to renew or scrap them after a trial in 2012-13.

"It is very worrying that the Keep Wales Tidy annual survey of our streets has shown that they are getting dirtier rather than cleaner. This is before substantial cuts are made to our street cleaning budget and we feel the effects of charging for bulky objects," he said.

"It is only a few weeks since the charges have come in, but I am already getting calls from local residents in the centre of Barry about fridges being left on the street, or sofas and settees blocking the pavement.

"We all know that it is an anti-social minority who drop their litter on the street rather than use bins or take rubbish home with them, but it isn't a good look for anywhere to have rubbish collecting in the gutters or in the back lanes."

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Law change means Vale Council can make a start on building homes again

by PHILIP IRWIN

A CHANGE in legislation will give the Vale Council much more freedom to build new council houses in the Vale – something that could make a real difference to the amount of affordable housing in the area.

The news followed negotiations between the Welsh Government (WG) and the UK Treasury – a WG statement described it as "an historic agreement which will result in greater investment in Wales' council housing".

A total of 11 local authorities in Wales have retained their social housing stock – the Vale Council is one – and they will no longer be part of the UK Government's Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) system and will now become self-financing.

These councils will be given more powers over their housing stock, and they will be able to keep all the rental income they receive from tenants.

For quite some time, the councils have had to hand over a percentage of the rents to central government, and this has made borrowing to build more homes uneconomic.

Other councils, including Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) left this system some time ago and transferred their social housing stock to registered social landlords. In the case of BCBC, the stock was transferred to Valleys to Coast (V2C).

The Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister, Lesley Griffiths, said: "Many hours of complex negotiations and a great deal of hard work has gone into securing this agreement, which will have a very positive impact on Wales' council housing stock.

"Each council will be better off every year and will enjoy new freedoms which will provide them with the incentive, flexibility and control to invest further in their housing stock.

"The increase in councils' housing revenue as a result of this deal will allow them to improve their existing properties and build new council houses. Today's historic deal will, therefore, also have a direct impact on tenants who will benefit from living in more comfortable, higher quality homes."

The HRAS exit follows the Welsh Government's recent announcement of their intention to end Right to Buy, which allows eligible social housing tenants to buy their home at a discount of up to £16,000.

The policy has resulted in the sale of 138,423 Welsh council homes since 1981 – a 45 per cent reduction in the social housing available compared to when the policy was first introduced.

The HRAS exit has been widely welcomed by councils. Coun Dyfed Edwards, Welsh Local Government Association spokesperson for Housing said: "The 11 councils involved have worked closely with Welsh Government in achieving this agreement and are excited about the investment opportunities that will result from it."

The Vale Council agreed, with its Head of Housing and Building Services, Hayley Selway, saying: "The new self-financing deal will be very welcome as it will put the council in a far stronger position to be able to build new housing and regenerate existing stock than the current financial plan allows".

Whether the council can afford to buy building land is not known at the moment, but she continued: "We are currently conducting various feasibility studies on council-owned land across the Vale, looking specifically at homes that would be accessible to people with disabilities.

"Any new homes built will be predominantly social rented homes, but we are considering how other forms of affordable housing can be delivered through working with our partners. We will be starting the pre-planning process within the coming financial year."

ROTARY CLUB'S RACE NIGHT

LLANTWIT Major Rotary Club is hosting a 'Race Night' in aid of Rotary charities.

The event is on April 18 at 7pm in Llanmaes Village Hall.

Admission is £10 and includes buffet and raffle – bring your own drinks!

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SLEEP OUT WITH EMMAUS

ON Friday, April 17, in Bridgend Town Centre, Emmaus South Wales will be organising Emmaus South Wales Sleep Out.

"You can look forward to an enjoyable evening sleeping out in solidarity with the many homeless people in Bridgend county borough. Sleep Out with friends, family members, work colleagues or just come along and make friends along the way!" a spokesperson said.

"Food and hot drinks will be provided on the night, as well as great live music and activities, including a raffle and our famous pub quiz! Anyone can take part; men, women and children all are welcome. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult on the night."

Emmaus South Wales has set up a 'BT My Donate' page for you to use. Simply go to http://mydonate.bt.com/events/sleepout2015/211751 and click 'Start Fundraising' to create your own sponsorship page. *For more information, telephone 01656 648426: Email: events@emmaussouthwales.org.uk*

Intrepid explorer Sir Ranulph (71) tackles toughest footrace on earth for Marie Curie

WITH his gruelling Marathon des Sables challenge for Marie Curie less than a week away, Sir Ranulph Fiennes visited the charity's Cardiff and the Vale hospice recently for a last-minute kit check in Penarth.

The intrepid explorer went to the hospice to meet Cardiff-based trainer Rory Coleman for instructions and a final run-through of his kit before jetting out to the Sahara desert to take on the 'toughest footrace on earth'.

The 71-year-old Sir Ranulph is hoping to raise millions for the charity by completing the six-day, 251 km/156 mile event, and become the oldest Briton to do so in the process.

Since news of Sir Ranulph's Marathon des Sables challenge was announced in January, supporters from around the world have been sending him good wishes.

He received a special message from Prince Charles, who wrote to Sir Ranulph to wish him the very best of luck out in the Sahara.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes said: "I have been extremely humbled by the messages of support I have received, not least from the Prince, ahead of this challenge.

"After months of training, I feel ready to go, and my focus is solely on completing this event in order to support Marie Curie and the marvellous work this charity does for people living with a terminal illness, and their families."

Sir Ranulph Fiennes is ready for his Marathon des Sables challenge.

In order to equip himself for the searing 50-degrees centigrade heat of the Sahara, Sir Ranulph will be carrying specialist kit with him throughout the Marathon des Sables. His running trainers will be fitted with gators to prevent the sand from getting into his shoes, while his backpack will be filled with a number of compulsory items including food, salt tablets and a medical kit.

Trainer Rory Coleman has given Sir Ranulph a detailed briefing of all the kit he will be carrying during the event.

He said: "The Marathon des Sables is a test of self-sufficiency. Sir Ranulph will be running through the desert with everything he needs on his back: his sleeping bag, spare clothes and even an anti-venom pump for snake bites and scorpion stings – but we'll be hoping he won't be using that part of his medical kit!

"Sir Ranulph has been through a tough training schedule, and I feel he is now well prepared for what lies ahead. I can't wait to see him with the finishers' medal around his neck at the finish line."

Sir Ranulph Fiennes has already raised £6.3million for Marie Curie. In 2007, despite suffering from vertigo, he climbed the Eiger by its north face for the charity.

In May 2009, at the age of 65, he climbed to the summit of Mount Everest, again for Marie Curie, making him the oldest British person to achieve this.

To follow Sir Ranulph's challenge visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/ranulph. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/ranulph or text RUN to 70007 to donate £5 plus a message of support to Sir Ranulph.

Macmillan Legacy Garden a 'first' for RHS Flower Show

A SINGLE legacy left to Macmillan, no matter what size, is important and valuable – that is the theme of the first ever Macmillan garden created by a Vale garden designer for RHS Flower Show Cardiff.

The Macmillan Legacy Garden, designed for free by Melinda Thomas from Llancarfan, aims to promote the importance of gifts in wills. Visitors will be able to visit the garden throughout the RHS Show (April 17 – 19).

Bridgend-born royal fashion designer David Emanuel will open the Macmillan garden. Former *I'm a Celebrity* contestant David was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2012 and is now a Macmillan Ambassador.

Garden designer Melinda Thomas (48) is currently studying horticulture and landscape design at Bridgend College. This is her first solo show garden. Her previous involvement at the RHS Flower Show Cardiff was in a joint initiative between the college and Cardiff City Council in 2014, and this achieved a bronze medal.

Garden designer Melinda Thomas.

Melinda said: "Most people know someone affected by cancer. The landlady in our village pub always takes part in Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning – so I've always been very aware of Macmillan.

"What really resonated with me as I was designing the garden is that no matter how big or small a legacy – funds that are donated to Macmillan are important and the foundation of its work. This is what I've tried to visualise through the low walls that weave through the space.

"I wanted the Macmillan Legacy Garden to be somewhere for contemplation, quiet, peaceful, somewhere for people to feel comfortable. It needs to be inviting and features lots of natural, semi-shaded plants, using lots of green and white."

There are currently 130,000 people living with cancer in Wales – a number set to double by 2030. Without the necessary funding, helping people to reclaim their lives from cancer through medical, practical, financial or emotional support, will prove more of a challenge than ever.

Jonathan Frost, Macmillan's legacy manager said: "We hope that the theme of the Macmillan Legacy Garden this year will inspire visitors to think about leaving a legacy. Many people don't realise that gifts in wills can be of any shape and size. Just £50 will pay for two hours of a Macmillan nurse's time."

To find out more about leaving a gift to Macmillan in your will, call 08001 074448 or visit macmillan.org.uk/legacies.

Brave Elizabeth says: 'Sign up for the Walk for Life'

KIDNEY disease patient Elizabeth Edwards (20) from Bridgend is urging locals to sign up for the Walk for Life event in Llantrisant on April 26, in order to raise much-needed funds for Kidney Wales.

Unfortunately for Elizabeth, who is a staunch supporter of the Welsh charity, she has had to step back from volunteering at the Walk for Life event this year due to extensive dialysis treatment, but hopes to return to support and participate at next year's event.

The five mile Walk for Life event will be one of many similar events occurring across Wales on April 26 to support the Welsh charity.

Kidney Wales Walk for Life events are organised by volunteers who organise a walk, gathering together colleagues, friends and family to participate in order to raise vital funds and awareness for kidney patient care and well-being. The Llantrisant Walk for Life event is run by Matthew Harris and his wife Helen. Matthew got involved with Kidney Wales when his wife was diagnosed with kidney problems.

Matthew said: "I started doing this on a personal level because of what happened to my wife, but it's people like Elizabeth that we really want to help. Kidney Wales does such great work for kidney disease patients across the country, so we're always happy to help. The walk is well attended year on year, we consistently get more than 100 people, and it has a real family-friendly atmosphere."

Elizabeth first experienced kidney failure at the age of twelve, and says that the past eight years have been extremely difficult for both her and her family. Elizabeth has undergone two transplant operations since her diagnosis, but sadly both of her new kidneys have failed, and she's now on six to eight hours of dialysis five days a week.

The waiting list for kidney transplants in the UK is typically lengthy, so the disappointment of a failed transplant can often be difficult to take.

However, Elizabeth remains in good spirits, saying that the support she receives from Kidney Wales has inspired her to participate with fundraising and campaigning for the Welsh charity as soon as she is well enough.

Elizabeth was a volunteer at last year's event, however the necessity of constant medical attention has made it impossible for her to return this year. The fact that she spends so much time in and out of hospital means that while she's on dialysis, she is unable to study or work full time.

Elizabeth said: "It's really unfortunate that I can't help out with this year's Walk for Life event in Llantrisant. I can't stress enough how grateful I am to Kidney Wales for the work that they do, they're absolutely fantastic and have provided me with so much support. As soon as I'm well enough I'll definitely be helping them fundraise as much as I can. Hopefully next year I can help out with Walk for Life!"

Roy Thomas, Kidney Wales chairman, said: "We are incredibly grateful for people like Elizabeth who, in spite of great adversity, still aspire to do great work for us. She's exactly the sort of person we're here to support, but her desire to help out too is truly admirable.

"It's sad that she won't make it to Walk for Life in Llantrisant, but she's in our thoughts and we're hopeful that this year's event will be as successful as ever, so we can support people like Elizabeth as much as possible in their time of need."

Llantrisant's Walk for Life is set to take place on the morning of Sunday, April 26. Registrations are now open, and the event is for people of all ages and abilities.

For more information and to join the Walk for Life in your area please contact Bethan Palfrey at Kidney Wales Foundation bethan@kidneywales.com or 02920 343940. Alternatively, visit: www.kidneywales.com

Elizabeth Edwards.

Local company supports YFC

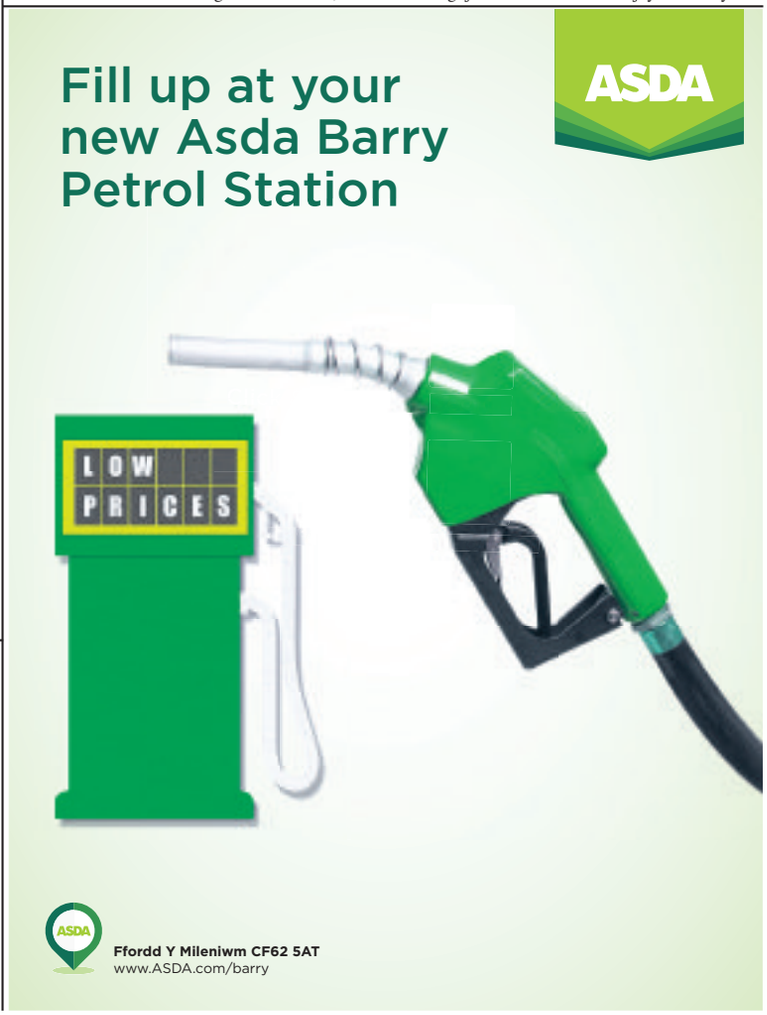
LEFT: Richard Taylor presenting the shield to Neath YFC.

LOCAL company Ashdown Fencing was delighted to support Glamorgan YFC at their county field day, in the fence erecting competition.

The company introduced and donated the Ashdown Fencing Ltd Perpetual Shield, presented to the winning team Neath YFC, by Richard Taylor (owner and founder of Ashdown), who also judged the competition.

Richard was also thrilled to judge the junior fencing competition that began this year and presented shields, donated by Ashdown, to the winning junior team Gelligaer YFC. The county field day took place on Saturday, April 4 at Amelia Trust Farm.

Results and awards for the day were revealed and presented at the Three Horse Shoes in Moulton, after the competitions had ended. All members enjoyed the day!



What's on and where?

Bute talk

PENARTH Local History Society will hear a talk entitled '2nd Marquis of Bute' by Richard Britton at 7.30pm today (Thursday, April 9) at the All Saints Church Lesser Hall, Penarth.

New members welcome. For further details, contact Brian Fisher on 029 2051 4500, or Michael Gandy on 029 2070 0211.

Vale AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery this Friday (April 10) at Trinity Church Hall, Barry, from 4pm-6pm.

She will be holding another surgery at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 14 from 10am-12 noon.

No appointments necessary.

Bowling club coffee morning

THERE will be a coffee morning at Murch Bowling Club, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys, 10am-12.30pm on Saturday, April 11.

On sale will be Bric-a-brac, cakes, books and nearly new items. All welcome.

Labour surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Castleland ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Karl Kuhnell and Lew Sword will be holding their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, April 11 from 10.30am-12 noon in Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

No appointment necessary.

Porthole sunset at St Lythan's Dolmen

RECENTLY, a small group could be seen in a Vale field filming the western sky. They were videoing the setting sun as it went down behind the striking chambered tomb, St Lythan's, in its hilltop position overlooking the Bristol Channel and the Somerset hills.

Chambered tombs, called dolmens when they are exposed rather than covered by banks of earth, are a feature of hill and coastal sites in Britain. The two examples locally, Tinkinswood and St Lythan's are both well signed, cared-for and visited, and very close to each other.

St Lythan's is an unusual site, which is why the group was there. Throughout Britain there are very few chambered tombs with portholes, holes deliberately created in the stone. There are perhaps three – the others being at Trevethy Quoit in Cornwall, and at Heston Brake in Monmouthshire.

The chamber at St Lythan's is made of three large upright stones which support a large capstone and it runs east to west on the skyline. The porthole stone itself is of human height and the triangular hole is at face height at the west end of the chamber.

St Lythan's porthole is remarkable because measurements suggest that it is aligned to where the setting sun meets the horizon at the time of the spring equinox, around March 21. In theory, on that day the porthole could be filled with the circle of the setting sun exactly as it touches the skyline.

It was in the hope of catching this moment that the group took cameras into the field to film the sunset. Two cameras were placed at different angles, one at a distance to show the western sky and the dolmen in its setting, the other closer and directed at the porthole itself.

Both cameras then ran for 50 minutes to capture before, during and after the sunset.

Although the measurements taken two years earlier suggested that the alignment existed, overcast skies had made it impossible to film. On this occasion too, there was cloud, and the temperature was cold, about three degrees but feeling colder.

There was a moment of panic as the cloud tried to obscure the sun as it actually came close to the horizon but the warmth of the sun pushed the cloud back.

There was panic as the camera angle was too low and the tripod had to be held higher to catch the moment. Then the moment came, not just sunlight, but the sun itself appeared at the porthole and blazed through.

The moment was captured and the entire filming was then condensed into a video lasting just under four minutes which can be seen on youtube (type in porthole st lythans) or on the group website at *www.coguru.co.uk/stlythans*. It will be shared with anyone with an amateur or professional interest.

One way to understand the achievement of the dolmen builders 6,000 years ago, is to try an experiment with a west-facing window. Facing west, use a directional compass and make a mark on the window where the skyline is at 270 degrees.

This is the point where the spring equinox sun will touch your skyline. This is the same point as the one where the sun fills the porthole and directly enters the chambered tomb.

Stonehenge and other sites are aligned to the solstices and equinoxes and many religious sites are aligned east to west, and we make guesses as we try to understand the reasoning behind these choices made by our ancestors.

We now know that, at St Lythan's, on the day when day and night are of equal length, there is an alignment between the setting sun on the skyline, the porthole, and the interior of the chamber, with whoever, or whatever was in there.

It could have been people, bones, perhaps a missing east-facing stone – which, for all we know, also had a porthole. Whatever it was, for the moment we can only guess. But, as the recent filming shows, new evidence can emerge.

There has been little or no speculation about this rounded triangular shaped hole in the west-facing orthostat at St Lythan's. Yet there is a case for interest and a need for new thinking, new ideas about this kind of feature.

This is a mystery right here in our area and the porthole and alignment features at St Lythan's are unique.

VALERIE EVANS

Sunset at the spring equinox, St Lythan's.

Can you find a home for Joe?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for canines at the Bridgend rehoming centre.

JOE is a bright and active one-year-old Collie cross. He loves his toys and having a good run off-lead. He does mix with other dogs and this will need to be kept up once in a home.

He does have some behavioural issues as a result of inconsistent handling in the past, so he will need to live with experienced, confident owners, so that Joe gets all the training he requires; and also to follow the behavioural program requested by our trainers.

Joe would prefer to live in an adult-only home. With the work put in, Joe will make a fun and rewarding companion.

LINDA FEAGAN
Supporter Relations Officer,
Dogs Trust Bridgend.

HAVE A NIGHT IN FOR MACMILLAN!

I AM writing to you to ask your readers to have a Night In for Macmillan this May – it is simply about having friends round for a catch-up, a laugh and something to eat and drink. There's no 2am taxi to find and no queue at the bar – instead, Macmillan wants you to enjoy some quality time in with your favourite people.

Last year, our supporters across the UK raised an amazing £2m by hosting a Night In. This year, we're appealing for people across Wales to sign up to host their own Night In and help us to raise even more to support people affected by cancer.

Night In is a fun, hassle-free way to help raise money for Macmillan and ensure no one faces cancer alone. It's simple to arrange and, best of all, you get to have a good time with friends while supporting Macmillan. We'll even make sure you get a Night In kit to get the night off to a great start.

There are a million reasons for a Night In this May. To make a difference, simply register your interest at *http://nightin.org.uk*, wait for your free Night In kit and ask your friends to donate whatever they can afford to your Night In.

For information or support from Macmillan, call us free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk.

Susan Morris,
(General manager for Macmillan in Wales, telephone 01656 867 960).

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Welsh actor Mark will put himself to the test to aid the work of Marie Curie

WELSH actor Mark Lewis Jones is supporting Marie Curie and the charity's work in Wales.

Mark, who lives in Cardiff, is well known to TV audiences for his roles in shows such as *Baker Boys* and hit Sky drama *Stella*, where he plays the character of Rob.

Recently, Mark paid a visit to the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in Penarth to learn more about the charity's work – and said he was 'inspired' after witnessing the special relationship between staff and patients.

He said: "I've had the privilege to be introduced to the staff and some of the patients, and I found it very overwhelming and inspiring – it is an extraordinary place.

"The care and support that is given is remarkable – nothing is too much trouble for the nurses.

"I am very proud to be a part of this now, and I'm looking to do anything I can to support Marie Curie and their work supporting people living with a terminal illness, and their families, across Wales."

Marie Curie supporter Mark Lewis Jones, pictured with staff nurse Rebecca Mort.

When he's away from the set, Mark is an ultra-marathon runner, competing in Welsh events such as the Brecon to Cardiff Ultra and the Barry 40.

He is hoping he will be able to support Marie Curie by raising funds for the charity through one of his gruelling tests of endurance.

He added: "Having done a lot of ultra-marathons it would be nice to find one somewhere in Wales and use that in order to raise the profile of Marie Curie throughout Wales, but also to raise funds for this great charity."

Perhaps Mark's biggest personal challenge to date was running the Marathon des Sables last year with *Hinterland* actor Richard Harrington – the very same challenge that Sir Ranulph Fiennes is about to embark on in support of Marie Curie.

Special angling match helps schools

DOW CORNING Sea Angling Club, with support from the Sea View lads, held a charity match from Cold Knap beach to Porthkerry to help raise funds for children who attend Ysgol Y Deri (who formerly went to Ashgrove/Ty Dyfan schools) and have learning and physical difficulties – £2,350 went to Ysgol Y Deri, Penarth and £1,000 to Ty Robyn Goch in Barry (105 anglers turned out on the day).

The weather was good and a few fish came to the scales. Winner Chris Equal of Cardiff gave his £50 pool money back (with 3.00kgs of Whiting and Dogfish).

Second was Gerald John, of Dow Corning, with a couple of Codling for 2.2kgs;and third was last year's winner, Andrew Hutchins of Cardiff, with 1.75 kgs.

Many thanks to all who donated: Dow Corning, Seashore Grill – quizzers, Lyndon Scaffolding, Vopak, Cape DBI, Paul-SHS, LME UK, Salevon, Unite, Ask Frank, SeaView Lads, Atec, Zulu Eng, Ameraal Belttech, FLT, Samat, PM.Rees, BW Autos, Lush's Penarth, Tracy Evans, FPI Cardiff, AWEC, Cherry Orchard, Tynewydd Inn, Anchorman Charters, Treforest Tiling, John Griffiths, Reg Aspinall, Holton Rd Angling, Barry Angling, Ewenny Angling, Keens Angling, Bobs Tackle, Paul Davies, Steve Jones, Tony Gwyther, Steve Rees and WFSA. Thanks to the Ship Hotel for the room and to Tess, Sian, Natalie and Julie for the food and raffle and finally, Phil and Jimmy for the bookings. November 8, 2015 is the next charity match.

John Little

John Little of Dow Corning and wife Tess are pictured presenting a cheque for £2,350 to Mr Chris Britton, headmaster of Ysgol Y Deri watched by some of the children.

NATIONAL TRUST AT THE DUKE

OUR April meeting at The Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge on April 15 will commence at 7pm with the AGM.

This will be followed by a talk at 7.30pm by Peter Sampson on Flat Holm and its role in protecting the Channel ports from attack by men and disease, and its role in the invention of radio communication.

Jane Hydon, Chair

Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Saturday 9:30am and 11:30am
Brackla Community Centre, Brackla
Rhian - 07837 280013

Monday 5.30pm
Gilgal Church Hall, Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 5HU
Beverley 07912 172674

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

Tuesdays 9:30am
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 5.30pm
Bryntirion (Penybont) Football Club
Llangewydd Road
Bridgend

Tuesday 5.30pm
Ebenezer Church Hall, opp. Surgery, North Cornelly CF33 4LB
Dee 07733 267369

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
The Welfare Hall, Hope Avenue, Next To The Old Cinema, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PR
Lorraine 01656 734710

Tuesdays 6:30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola - 01446 740394

Tuesdays 7:30pm
St Marys Catholic Church Hall, Ewenny Road, Bridgend
Graham 07475 865005

Wednesday 9.30am
Ebenezer Church Hall, opp. Surgery, North Cornelly CF33 4LB
Dee 07733 267369

Wednesdays 6:00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4:45pm and 6:45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30 pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

Thursdays 9.30am
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Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

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Thursdays 5:30pm
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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN VALE AND BRIDGEND

Artist on show

A LLANTWIT Major artist, Patricia Mears, is currently showing her work in Barry with a group of paintings 'The Stones Remain', featuring ruins of Welsh abbeys and churches from Tintern Abbey to St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire.

She is chairperson of Llantwit Major arts and crafts group and the exhibition is in the cafe on Barry Station, run by Mind in the Vale, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Artists and is open until May 8 from 8am – 12 noon on weekdays.

An invitation to Horeb Baptist Chapel

A GOSPEL meeting is being held at Horeb Baptist Chapel, Dinam Close, Nantymoel CF32 7PU on April 9 at 6pm.

Dr Dennis Petty will be bringing a gospel message to encourage all who attend.

For more information, call Pastor Chris Bluto on 01443 675424.

Valeways walks

April 9, Up to the Downs; meet Portobello car park, Ogmore at 10.30am.

April 12, Gemau cudd glan y mor; meet Dunraven car park at 2pm.

April 14, New 'Walk & Click'; cameras required, meet Cowbridge livestock market 12 pm.

April 14, Hidden Valley and Coastal Views. Meet Dinas Powys common, opposite Twyncyn at 1.30pm.

Concert in memory of Cal Newman

AN acoustic concert is being held in memory of Cal Newman.

All proceeds will go to 'Guitars for Disadvantaged Children'.

It is on April 10 at Barry Island Sports and Social Club at 8pm.

Tickets £5 each, available at the sponsors Marco's Cafe, Barry Island and Cranes music store, St Mary's Street, Cardiff.

Acts include: Jelly Roll Jones, Sicknote Steve, Hank Hillman,Viv Hinds Payne, Dave Lee Jones, Pip and more!

Bowls coffee

THERE will be a coffee morning at Llantwit Major Bowls Club this Saturday, April 11 from 10am – 12pm.

A £3 entrance fee will include tea/coffee and biscuit, plus free top-up. There will be a cake stall, book stall and bric-a-brac stall. Everyone welcome.

Tabletop sale

THERE will be a tabletop sale in Peterston-Super-Ely Church and Community Hall on Saturday, April 11 from 10am – 12 noon.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome. To book a table and further details contact Pat on 01446 760267, tables are £5.

The usual village market is held on the second Saturday of every month from 10am – 12 noon, selling homemade cakes, preserves, produce, plants and a very extensive collection of books.

Fairtrade coffee and teas served, all proceeds towards the improvement and maintenance of the hall.

PC

Evening of mediumship

BARRY National Spiritualist Church and Centre presents an evening of mediumship with Moya O'Dwyer on Monday, April 13 at 7pm.

Pay at the door £5; all welcome. Buttrills Road, Barry CF62 8EF.

JM

Free advice

FREE advice on benefits, pensions, will be available on April 14 (9.30am to 11.45am) at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. Home visits can be arranged. Contact 01446 732385.

Litter-free Cowbridge

WE are meeting on Cowbridge Downs outside the Bryn Owain on Friday, April 17 at 10am.

We intend to clear both sides of the Downs.

Everyone is welcome. Contact me on 01446 771061 for more details.

Julie Evans

Cowbridge U3A

FOLLOWING the talk last month by the Tools for Africa charity, there will be a collection in the Cowbridge and district area of any unwanted tools, particularly non-electrical domestic and workshop tools – but please, no gardening tools on April 21 and 22.

To arrange a collection at your home/workplace please contact Pat Smith on 01656 668446.

Hearty Meal!

A CHARITY opera night will take place on Wednesday, April 22 at 7pm in The Huntsman Restaurant in Dinas Powys.

Diners can enjoy a glass of prosecco on arrival, a delicious three-course dinner and be entertained by opera singers.

Proceeds in aid of Welsh Hearts, the heart charity for Wales' Dai Fib Appeal – funding for defibrillators, life saving equipment, heart screening throughout Wales.

To book, contact Welsh Hearts on 02920 786521, or email fundraising@welshhearts.org; online www.welshhearts.org/events.

Kyle concert at West End club

AN international Gaelic Americana artist is coming to Barry.

Kyle embarks on her second UK tour with only one show in Wales at Barry West End Club on Friday, April 24.

Kyle, from the US, has released her second CD *North Star*, to great reviews worldwide.

Having spent some time in Cape Breton studying Gaelic songs and fiddle styles, she then had a two-year sojourn on the Isle of Skye, where she cemented her command of Gaelic.

Kyle represents an interesting crossroads – one that spans the Atlantic and has already commanded a hundred stages on both sides of that pond.

For tickets and info telephone 07561 143114.

Toy and train sale returns to Penarth at leisure centre

CARDIFF toy and train sale takes place on Saturday, April 11, 10.30am-3pm, at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff, (CF64 2NS).

Organiser Chris Dyer told us this week: "Traders present on the day will also be buying and exchanging, as well as selling, and will offer free valuations on a wide range of toy and train related items, without any obligation.

"They welcome any items being brought in for cash or exchange, so do raid your attics!"

Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; website: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

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by
GARETH JAMIESON
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ACTION MOVIE FRANCHISE IS GETTING STRONGER WITH AGE

FRANCHISES are supposed to become less and less successful as they go on, the likes of *Police Academy* or any horror franchise you care to name starting strongly before the law of diminishing returns takes hold.

The opposite has been true of the *Fast and Furious* franchise; while the second and third films were minor wobbles after the the success of the first, since 2009 *Fast and Furious* films have become bigger, not just in terms of the grandiose and jaw-dropping nature of the action, but also in terms of the box office, each film grossing more than the previous instalment.

This time around, however, there is a dark shadow over *Fast and Furious 7*, the untimely death of lead Paul Walker in November 2013. With filming only just having got under way, the film was understandably delayed, with adjustments to the story, and it now hits cinema screens.

Having stopped Owen Shaw (Luke Evans) in the last film, the gang (Walker, Vin Diesel, Tyrese, Ludacris, among others) and Agent Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) face the threat of his rather angry brother Deckard (Jason Statham); but the group may be helped by a shady government agent (played by Kurt Russell), who offers to stop Shaw if they can secure a tracking device for the American government...

While the first film in the *Fast and Furious* franchise was a story of street racers staying one step ahead of the law, as the franchise has grown it has become less about guys from the wrong side of the tracks battling the forces of justice, and more about an A-Team of drivers tasked with chasing down terrorists while getting involved in epic, grandiose (and logic-defying) acts of spectacle.

Fast and Furious 7 doesn't dial any of these elements down; in fact, it almost feels that its aware of its own death-defying, hyper-reality self, and plays out like that. But while films like *Transformers* have no less carnage on the screen, it's the series' strong sense of self that is its ace card, and means that, much like its previous two outings, this is still exceedingly dumb – but also exceedingly fun.

The shadow cast by the tragic death of Paul Walker does hang a little over proceedings; there are elements of the film that feel disjointed, no doubt in part to having to undergo such vigorous rewrites post-accident, but it is to the filmmakers' (and cast's) credit that what we see on screen is still entertaining and satisfying.

The story is your traditional 'men (and woman) on a mission' as Kurt Russell's wonderful agent sends the group after the macguffin that will hopefully lead them to this episode's bete noir Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham relishing villainous duties); but it also feels like closure to a degree, the knowledge that Walker's Brian O'Connor will be absent from future outings playing into the film's tone.

However, it takes a few gambles, not least sidelining Dwayne Johnson's Hobbs for much of the film. It is a bold move considering Johnson has been the best character in the last two outings, but one that the mind-blowing spectacle (cars dropping out of planes, cars traversing three towers 100 floors up) means pays off, especially when Johnson's appearances easily kick the film up a gear. The rest of the performances are the usual blend of gravel voices and wooden acting.

Shifting directors from Justin Lin to James Wan hasn't really done any damage either, Wan maintaining the series' 100mph pace and maintaining the degree of spectacle, even if the lingering shots of women's bikini-clad bottoms does veer into Michael Bay pastiche territory.

Most surprisingly of all is that for a franchise built on bullets, speed, testosterone and bombast, the final five minutes are so beautifully and tenderly done, a farewell to O'Connor that gently nudges the fourth wall, blurring the lines between character and actor, and a sequence that would leave even the most cynical with at least a lump in their throat.

All in all, it's a film that knows exactly what it's doing, knows exactly how to do it, and does it exceedingly well. Of course, *Fast and Furious 7* requires little use of your brain, but there's something refreshing, in a sea of blockbusters, that attempt, and fail, to be earnest, this one is all about entertainment and spectacle; bring on number eight!

VERDICT – What could have been a film weighed down by tragedy soars through bombast and spectacle. Fast and Furious 7 has all the entertainment and spectacle you could hope for, delivering the first blow in the summer blockbuster wars; subtle it isn't – but when it's this entertaining who cares?

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Fast & Furious 6 (2013), Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (2011).

Making dreams come true at Riding For the Disabled

THE Mount Pleasant Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) in Bridgend provides life-changing therapy for disabled children up to the age of 16.

Until recently, the group were forced to restrict the number of riding sessions during the winter months, due to the deteriorating condition of the outdoor surface. As a result, the group had over 25 young people on a waiting list.

Thanks to an award from players of People's Postcode Lottery, a new outdoor riding arena has been constructed, which includes a purpose-built surface that can be used all year round.

"This is the first year that we have been able to offer our riding sessions every week throughout winter. In previous years, we have had to hire the school at the local college and were only able to ride twice a month," said a trustee at Mount Pleasant RDA.

A parent of a rider at Mount Pleasant RDA said: "Having a child who can find changes to routine and different settings stressful, the all-weather ménage has meant that she can enjoy her riding experience in an environment she feels safe and secure in week after week."

A rider from Mount Pleasant RDA commented: "It's brilliant, I feel like I'm in the Paralympics!"

On March 28, players of People's Postcode Lottery in Bridgend CF31 2PJ were lucky enough to share prizes totalling £2 million. Mount Pleasant Group volunteers, riders and ponies would like to say a huge thank you to local players who made their dreams come true!

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SOLID ROOF CREATES A CONSERVATORY TO 'LIVIN' WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Conservatories are a great way of adding a light and airy room to any home. However, depending on where the conservatory is positioned and the amount of shade outside, it can let in too much light.

Too much sunlight can mean the conservatory gets very warm in summer and, even on a bright winter day, make it difficult to watch TV, browse an iPad or work on a computer.

At Securahome we are now able to offer an alternative to polycarbonate or glass – a solid roof.

Called a Livin Roof, this system can be fitted to an existing conservatory, so there is no need to change the existing walls and glazing.

Thanks to Kingspan insulation, the Livin Roof is 15 times more thermally efficient than a polycarbonate or old glass roof without solar control, meaning the conservatory will be warmer in winter.

For those who don't enjoy the, all-too-common, pitter-patter of raindrops, the Livin Roof also improves sound insulation compared to polycarbonate and glass.

The inside of the roof is a plaster-boarded to keep an airy and modern 'vaulted ceiling' feel, meaning it can be finished with down-lighters or pendant lights. With the option to add glazed panels to the Livin Roof, it's even possible to keep a view of the heavens!

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'The last chance to change housing plans in the Vale'

FOR the past two and a half years, since being elected as a Plaid Cymru councillor, I have campaigned against the Vale's Local Development Plan – the proposals to build 10,000 houses when Welsh Government's own housing need projections are for 5,600.

Unfortunately, new Government regulations mean that the number of houses we need to build will be based on those remaining in our LDP.

This means that, if the Vale Council continues to insist that we need to build 10,000 houses, then we will have to build 800 houses per year from now until 2026 to meet that target.

That is more in one year than have been built in the past five years.

Building these unnecessary extra houses will mean more cars on our streets, causing added congestion on already busy roads.

However, if we can scrap the cruel and unfair 'bedroom tax', as Plaid Cymru wants to do, then we would need even fewer new houses – as those affected by the tax would no longer be forced out of their homes.

The Vale Council will soon submit their final LDP. It would make much more sense if their housing target was 5,600, rather than 10,000 – so that developers can get on with building the 400 houses per year that we require to meet local need, rather than fictitious targets that mean over-development and unnecessary building on 'greenfield' sites across the Vale.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry,
Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale.

'EU cannot go on like this'

AT the risk of boring your readers rigid, I hope you will allow me to respond to recent criticisms.

If unclear, the alternative to membership of the EU is trade with the EU, EFTA and the world, but without the EU's political baggage and interference.

China, for one, seems completely unfazed by having (presumably) no say in devising EU trade regulations – our shops are full of Chinese imports.

Your correspondent forgets that proportional representation was rejected in our recent referendum.

Re the proportional European Parliament, which of us can name our MEP? *Any* MEP, or describe anything the MEP has said or done?

The European Commission instigates EU legislation, and our commissioner must put the interests of the EU above our own. Who voted for our commissioner? None of us.

The EU cannot continue as it is. Either it abandons the euro (unlikely?) or becomes the United States of Europe.

This has been mostly about money. Your correspondent is silent about uncontrolled and uncontrollable immigration and its effect on greenfield sites such as Darren Farm, Colwinston, St Nicholas, now Bonvilston, and many more nationwide.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

Welsh miners stood together out of loyalty

AT least Marc Delaney had the courage to put his name to his letter, unlike your anonymous correspondent (April 2) who calls Marc's letter 'skewed' – but then presents his own seriously-biased view as fact.

He says his wife's family worked for the NCB in Wales. If they had been miners, he surely would have said so.

His views being what they are, I assume they worked for NCB management.

It was and remains Tory propaganda that Arthur Scargill engineered the strike. Scargill received intelligence from inside the Coal Board that massive pit closures were planned

But when challenged, both Thatcher and McGregor lied about it. Thatcher wanted rid of the NUM and reasoned that no pits would mean no miners, and no NUM.

Welsh miners were neither bullied nor blackmailed; the suggestion is laughable.

Scargill's tactics were questionable, but the Wales area remained solid because that is what working people did in those days.

They demonstrated loyalty and determination and stood behind their union to the last, something your correspondent cannot hope to understand.

Yes, some police were hurt, but their casualties were small by comparison with the miners.

As for provocation, the police, who were earning fortunes on overtime, taunted the strikers at every opportunity, waving bundles of £10 notes at men whose families were short of food.

David Thomas,
Brynna

Bag found

WHILE walking home on Barry Island late Saturday afternoon, I found a bag containing a some money.

Anybody who thinks it might be theirs is welcome to telephone me on (01446) 701605.

Callers should be aware that I will ask them to give me a detailed description in order to ascertain the rightful owner.

David Alexander,
Barry

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

It was made abundantly clear in the recent 'wrap' around The GEM, that this was an ADVERTISEMENT paid for by the Conservative Party, and, as such, should not be construed as reflecting the editorial views of The GEM, which is proud of its long-established reputation as a non-aligned, impartial community newspaper. This was again emphasised in the GEM note to a letter published last week – in fact, the only one received on the subject before we went to press – and is reiterated here for the third (and, hopefully) final time. As for the comments by Mr David Ellis (below, right) we strongly refute any suggestion of "blatant bias" or support for any one party and trust he will now accept that in the case of The GEM newspaper, at least, there is no "political affiliation" involved.

Readers' Letters

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OBJECTED TO CONTENT OF THE WRAP ADVERT

I THOUGHT a local free paper like The GEM should remain politically impartial.

I was appalled to see The GEM with the whole front and back of the paper dedicated to the Tories and Alun Cairns.

I object to such a large amount of political content on the front and back pages.

If the Tory party wants to pay to advertise in The GEM, surely this should be inside the paper.

The way it was displayed, as if it was the real front page and makes it look like The GEM is supporting the Tories.

Are you going to have the same display for all the other political parties in the coming weeks? I suspect not!

I have to say the front and back pages of my GEM were immediately ripped off and binned.

Jane and Jonathan Jenkins, Barry

'No diversity between parties'

EVERY time I open The GEM recently, all I see is a corny picture of Alun Cairns; there is absolutely no diversity between different party views.

Why do you only champion the Conservatives? Is this just you trying to influence the vote in the Tories' favour?

Thanks for letting me have my say.

David Marshall, Ystradowen

Liberal Democrat upset by 'Conservative propaganda'

I WAS very surprised, and not a little annoyed, to find that The GEM for March 26 was encased on the front and back covers with four pages of Conservative party propaganda, especially as this was the very day that a very close local election was taking place in Llantwit Major.

I do not know whether the local or central Tory party paid for this high-profile electioneering, or whether The GEM itself decided to campaign on behalf of the Conservatives, but I do find such blatant bias towards one particular political party unfair and undemocratic.

I thus eagerly awaited the publication of The GEM on April 2, expecting to find a storm of protests from readers about the previous week's edition, but surprisingly there was only one letter that mentioned it and this was tucked away in the middle pages on its own.

I wonder if this was a deliberate ploy by the editor and there were other letters on this topic that were not published?

I do feel we do not have a true democracy when the two major parties have millions of pounds at their disposal from big business, millionaire donors or trades unions to win over voters, when the smaller parties, such as the Liberal Democrats, the Greens and even the Llantwit First Independents, have to rely solely on supporter donations.

Electioneering is not a level playing field when money talks and it is not helped by the national or local press clearly supporting one particular party.

I would be grateful, therefore, if the editor of The GEM could enlighten us as to why his paper decided to so blatantly support the Conservative party.

Was it through the paper's political affiliation or merely for the money?

Dr David Ellis,
Cardiff and Vale Liberal Democrats

(SEE GEM RESPONSE AT TOP OF PAGE)

'STALIN WAS ALSO AN EVIL DESPOT'

WITH reference to the recent letter from Mr Short, although the so-called 'Battle of Berlin' did basically bring to an end an evil and despicable regime, the murder and rape of civilians and kidnapping of children taken to who knows where, made Stalin's Russia no better than what the Allies had been fighting against for years.

Stalin killed and imprisoned many of those who fought beside him. He created a new terror, which lasted a lot longer than the actual conflict that was World War Two.

I feel Mr Short's view is somewhat shortsighted. Stalin was an evil despot, as was Hitler.

S Fackrell, Barry.

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Top award for the Vale company that supplied Nato summit meeting

RIGHT: Tim and Peter Bird receive their award.

A Cowbridge-based company is celebrating, after a busy year culminated in the collection of a national award.

The company run by Tim and Peter Bird, has its offices in the town, with a warehouse in Bridgend.

Recently, Storage Design Limited attended the annual trade conference at GPC Industries Limited. During the day there are several awards and this year the company received the top honour of 'Distributor of the year 2014' for GPC.

This is voted for by the suppliers to GPC Industries Ltd and the group catalogue.

Tim Bird told The GEM that it had been an interesting year, with the company being involved in the Nato Summit last September at Celtic Manor, Newport.

He said: "We tendered for the supply of lockers in the media centre there. There were hundreds of journalists, all needing some secure place to store laptops and the like, while they were attending summit events.

"It was a difficult brief, because we had to install everything over one weekend, turning up on the Saturday, letting security search them all, and getting them in place by Sunday evening".

When the summit was over, Storage Design had to take the lockers back into storage, but Tim was pleased to report that they had found another client to take them on a permanent basis!

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D873.

● **£2,000:** 943143.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £8,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 343747; 688163; 605068; 585419; 350048; 313722; 187212; 794814; 908858; 667966; 716669; 769443; 204450; 232093; 605598; 674221; 568670; 718321; 869759; 359176.

● **£5:** 182512; 890545; 206053; 662614; 541544; 589564; 747514; 807827; 878456; 922522; 209945; 561453; 414577; 311676; 360589; 932110; 592881; 590558; 720188; 135244; 330953; 797664; 183337; 607854; 251220; 430616; 762703; 720239; 534957; 460898; 274252; 869379; 200706; 113210; 308664; 606938; 377287; 457910; 648194; 938206; 177396; 574506; 876519; 322123; 808659; 596832; 722449; 898902; 581165; 594328; 783512; 472945; 106052; 001839; 1229.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

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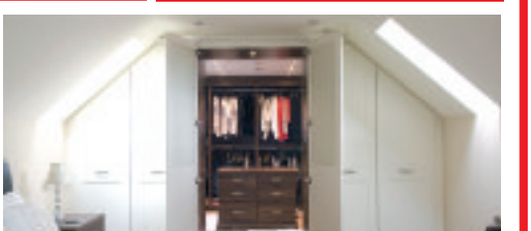

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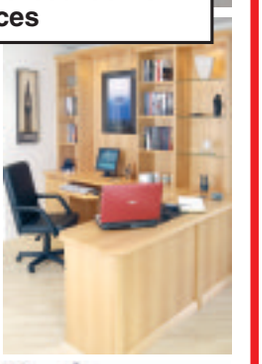

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Class 3B at Romilly School in the summer of 1965.

Just over a week until Romilly Old Boys get together

ROMILLY Old Boys' Reunion takes place at Cadoxton Conservative Club, Barry, on Friday, April 17 (7pm til late).

Organisers hope more than 150 former pupils will attend.

Mal Lyshon kindly supplied The GEM with a picture taken of Romilly boys almost exactly 50 years ago. It shows 3B in the lower yard in the summer of 1965.

Free tickets are available for the reunion from Vic Hopkins (butchers) High Street, Barry; or contact Alan Kingdon on 01446 732203; or Clive Tapscott on 01446 743157.

A £1 donation is requested on the door to cover organising expenses.

If anyone wants to know the latest on Romilly Old Boys, they should go to the following website : *www.romillyoldboysofficialsite.com;* for more information or to leave contact details for organisers, email: *romillyoldboys@gmail.com*.

Classic car show will boost cancer charity

THE Big Welsh Classic Car Show will launch in south Wales this September, helping to raise funds for blood cancer charity Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

The event will take place on Saturday, September 20 in the grounds of Margam Country Park and replaces the annual Tredegar House Vintage Car Rally which ended last year.

The previous event, which was organised by the Gwent Branch of the charity and ran for 34 years, helped to raise more than £860,000 for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research since its launch.

There will be a huge array of classic cars, military vehicles, buses and more on display, as well as a number of activities for families.

Rachael Davies, regional manager for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, said: "It's really exciting to be organising this brand new event. We're not trying to replace like-for-like the Tredegar House rally but we did want to create something for the classic car fans who have supported the charity over the years.

"There will be fantastic classic vehicles on show and so much on offer for everyone.

"Whether you have a classic car that you'd like to exhibit or you are looking for a fun family day out, come along and enjoy the show.

"The money raised will help us in our mission to beat blood cancer, improve the lives of all those affected and stop people from dying."

For more information on the event including details of how to register your classic car visit: https://leukaemialymphomaresearch.org.uk/event/big-welsh-classic-car-show or contact Rachael Davies on 029 2074 2376.

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'Not so Royal Variety Show' in Penarth draws a cast of rather familiar faces

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374 478

THE Not So Royal Variety Show took place at the Paget Rooms in Penarth on Thursday, April 2.

The event was a charity fundraiser for the mental health charity Mind and The Alzheimer's Society.

The artists included Lady Gaga (Donna Marie), Tony Bennett (Frankie Roma), HRH The Queen (Billy Raymond), Shirley Bassey (Rachael Roberts), Parsons & Dark, Leighton Jones, Pixie Perez, Emily Langford, Mundo Dance, Rickie Arthur, Rod Stevens (hypnotist) and Rebekah West.

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LOOKING BACK AT HUT 9 WEEKEND WHICH DREW VISITORS TO SITE OF 'GREAT ESCAPE'

A guard tower has been built – and people could even see an escape tunnel.

ABOVE: First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, opened the event.

OVER a recent weekend 700 plus visitors had the opportunity to visit the site of the 'German Great Escape', which took place near Bridgend 70 years ago in March 1945. (Although shown in previously in Bridgend, some Vale readers were keen to see a report and pictures too).

Visitors flocked to visit Hut 9, the sole remaining building of the Island Farm prisoner of war camp that housed over 1,600 German prisoners. They were treated to lectures by Brett Exton, an expert on the history of the site, and by Richard Williams, who has extensive knowledge of not just the camp but of the Royal Ordnance Factory in Bridgend.

After these talks, the visitors had a chance to see dozens of living historians in the rooms occupied by the RoF workers, the British guards, the Americans – who were there in the buildup to D-Day – and the German officers. They were told all about the various phases of occupation of the building.

The Hut 9 Preservation Group were responsible for the staging of the event and its chairman, Dr Jonathan Hicks, said: "We open the hut on just two occasions each year and this event was fully booked weeks in advance. Using the donations so kindly given to us by visitors to our last event in October 2014, we have spent the winter building period furniture for each of the rooms, buying artefacts to place in them, constructed a guard tower and built a mock escape tunnel for youngsters to experience a little of what it was like to escape. One mother proudly told me that her son had been through it 19 times!

"The event was opened by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, who stressed the importance of preserving this part of Bridgend's history. We were delighted to meet a World War Two veteran who praised the work we have done, and our RoF living historians were able to chat to a 91-year-old lady who had worked in the factory. The interest of visitors was immense and we are very grateful to everyone who attended and donated towards our work. We received over £1,700 in donations from the public and this enables us to make even more improvements for the next opening."

The next Hut 9 Open Weekend will take place on the weekend of October 17 and 18, 2015. Places for this free event can be booked by emailing: Conservation&Design@bridgend.gov.uk

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Ystradowen is the host as point-to-point racing returns to the Vale for new season

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE start of a new season of point-to-point racing in the Vale of Glamorgan is always widely-anticipated, and this was reflected in the number of spectators who were at Ystradowen in pretty average weather.

Although everyone would have preferred the excellent weather that marked the Easter bank holiday weekend, it did not dampen the enthusiasm for a day of keenly-contested jump racing, as the photographs on this page, by Glyn Evans, show only too well!

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MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

LLAIS LLEOL – BETHAN ELFYN

PA ardal o'r Fro ydych chi'n byw? Penarth.

Rhowch 5 gair i ddisgrifio Penarth. Pentref glan mor, awyrgylch arbennig.

Beth ydy eich diddordebau? Cerddoriaeth, siopa, darllen, teithio.

Ydych chi'n gweld bod yna alw am ddatblygu'r sîn gerddoriaeth Gymraeg yn y Fro? Pa fath o gigs fyddech chi'n hoffi gweld yn digwydd?

Roedd gig Al Lewis a Kizzy ym Mhenarth yn ddiweddar yn boblogaidd iawn, dwi'n meddwl bod digon o bobl yn hoffi mynd mas yn Penarth a digon o siaradwyr Cymraeg, a digon o adeiladau hyfryd i gynnal y gigiau – fel y Pier er enghraifft.

Ydych chi'n gweld a'n clywed y Gymraeg tipyn o gwmpas Penarth?

Ydw – ac yn nabod lot o Gymry sy'n byw yma – yn enwedig fod gen i ferch fach yn mynd i Cylch meithrin Bethel hefyd, ni'n nabod lot trwy hynny.

Beth yw eich uchelgais am y ddeng mlynedd nesaf?

Mwy o amser hamdden i fwynhau byw yn iach wrth y mor.

Gyda phwy fasech chi'n hoffi cael pryd o fwyd?

Falle Bryn Terfel sydd newydd symyd i'r dref hefyd, neu cyfaill o Penarth yr actores ar Gotham Erin Richards!

Bethan Elfyn

Pwy ydych chi'n eu hedmygu?

Unrhyw riant efo plant bach – mae'r diffyg cwsg yn lladdfa!

Beth yw eich gwyliau delfrydol?

Dwi'n hoff o fynd i Orllewin Cymru, pan mae'r tywydd yn braf, a campio yw un o'r hoff ffyrdd imi o ymlacio – yn enwedig pan does dim signal ffon.

Lle yw eich hoff darafarn neu fwyty yn y Fro?

Mae'r Pilot yn Penarth yn wych (yn enwedig pan oedd Hangfire BBQ yno unwaith yr wythnos), neu Bar 44, neu caffi Waterloo Tea Rooms yn ffefryn arall.

Diwrnod Cymraeg i'r Teulu

Y 7FED o Fawrth oedd diwrnod Cymraeg i'r Teulu ym Mharc Play, Caerdydd. Roedd y diwrnod ond yn costio £10 i oedolyn a phlant yn cael mynediad am ddim. Bargen a hanner!

Cafodd y plant (a'r tiwtoriaid) chwarae ar yr offer enfawr, cymryd rhan yn y sesiynau a roedd te, coffi a diodydd ysgafn yn gymwysiedig yn y pris! Roedd cymaint i wneud yno gyda'r cyffro yn amlwg ar wynebau'r plant, ac er eu bod yn credu bod y diwrnod wedi ei dargedu ar eu cyfer, yr oedolion oedd yn dysgu sut i addysgu, chwarae a treulio'r diwnod yn eu cwmni drwy ddefnyddio iaith y nefoedd! Felly, roedd rhywbeth at ddant pawb.

Y sesiwn cyntaf oedd gyda 'Tric a Chlic' ble roedd modd i ddysgu am system phonics mae'r ysgolion yn ei ddefnyddio wrth ddysgu darllen. Yna roedd sesiwn mathemateg cyn i ni ddysgu am apps Cymraeg sydd yn hynod ddefnyddiol. Roedd y plant wrth eu boddau yn canu a dawnsio gyda'r oedolion yn sesiwn 'Ffa-la-la.'

Roedd pob math o liwiau a siapiau yn cael eu taflu i bob cyfeiriad ble cawsom ddysgu am wahanol themau megis rhannau'r corff, anifeiliaid, amseroedd y dydd, cerbydau, y tywydd a diddordebau. Rwy'n siwr bod yr oedolion yn mwynhau mwy na'u plant! Roedd hyd yn oed y tiwtor Jo Full, yn dawnsio yn eu mysg! Yn anffodus roedd rhaid i ni ffarwelio gyda phawb am bedwar o'r gloch gyda sesiwn stori.

Roedd y plant wedi hen flino gyda bwrlwm y dydd felly roedd pawb yn eistedd wrth ochr eu rhieni wrth ddarllen y llyfr. Cafodd y rhiant gyfle i ddarllen llyfr amser gwely oedd yn brofiad unigryw i rai ohonynt. Dywedodd Angharad Devenold, trefnydd y dydd: "Roedd yn ddiwrnod fendigedig! Roedd yr haul yn gwenu arnom tra bod pawb yn dysgu. Digon o amrywiaeth o ran gweithgareddau a pawb wedi mwynhau! Methu aros ar gyfer yr un nesaf!"

Yn y Ganolfan ei hunain mae cymaint o gyrsiau darllen yn rhedeg ym mis Ebrill a Mai, ac mae ein Cwrs Sadwrn nesaf ni yn Sain Ffagan ar y 25ain o Ebrill. Bydd 5 awr o wersi Cymraeg a cyfle i ddysgu am yr adeiladau hanesyddol. Os nad yw hynny yn apelio, rhwng yr 8fed a'r 10fed o Fai bydd Cwrs Preswyl yn Neuadd Gregynog, Y Drenewydd. Bydd dros 10 awr o ddysgu a gweithgareddau hwyl i ymarfer eich Cymraeg. Dim ond £95 gan gynnwys llety a bwyd! Byddem yn cyrraedd yn hwyr nos Wener a gorffen prynhawn dydd Sul. I ymrestru ar unrhyw rai o'r cyrsiau uchod neu am ragor o wybodaeth ewch i learnwelsh.co.uk.

Glyn Wise

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Siop Ruckleys yn y Barri yn arddango eu arwydd drws dwyieithog.

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg wedi cynhyrchu arwyddion drws Ar Agor/Ar Gau dwyieithog, ac rydym yn eu dosbarthu AM DDIM i siopau, busnesau a gweithleoedd ar draws Bro Morgannwg dros y misoedd nesaf.

Rydym hefyd yn cynnig bathodynnau 'Cymraeg' sydd yn ffordd hawdd a chyfleus i adnabod staff sydd yn hapus i gynnig gwasanaeth ddwyieithog.

Hoffech chi gael arwyddion drws dwyieithog yn rhad ac am ddim? Neu ydych chi'n gweithio mewn siop neu'n berchen ar fusnes ym Mro Morgannwg ac yn gallu cynnig gwasanaeth Cymraeg i'ch cwsmeriaid? Os ydych, rhowch wybod i ni, ac fe fyddwn yn fwy na hapus i hyrwyddo eich gwasanaeth ar y dudalen hon ac ar ein gwefan!

ARGYFWNG, OBSESIWN A LWC – GOLWG AR FYD MERCHED ARLOESOL

Canolbwyntio ar y cyfarwydd, neu obsesiwn a manteisio ar gyfleoedd sy'n dod ar hap a damwain oedd negeseuon pedair o wragedd busnes mewn cyfarfod arbennig i hyrwyddo arloesi yn y Bontfaen yn ddiweddar.

Dyfeisgarwch a Chymreictod oedd themau'r gyfres o ddigwyddiadau a drefnwyd gan Merched y Wawr i gydfynd â Diwrnod Rhyngwladol y Merched eleni. Y sesiwn yng ngwesty'r Bear oedd yr olaf - cafwyd un yn LLanelwy a'r llall yn Nghastell Newydd Emlyn.

Meryl Davies, Llywydd Cenedlaethol y mudiad oedd yn cadeirio'r diwrnod ac fe gafwyd anerchiad byr gan Betsan Powys, Golygydd Radio Cymru. Wrth groesawi 'r trigain o ferched yn y gynulleidfa dywedodd bod hi fel mam, gwraig oedd yn gweithio'n llawn amser, yn gorfod dangos dipyn o ddyfeisgarwch wrth ddelio gyda phroblemau teuluol yn ddyddiol - cyn hyd yn oed mentro i'r gwaith bob bore!

Magwyd Llinos Lanini yn un o chwech o blant ar fferm yn Sir Ddinbych a dwedodd bod ei gyrfa wedi'i siapio drwy hap a damwain. Roedd wedi hyfforddi fel gweithwraig cymdeithasol a syrthio mewn cariad a'i gŵr tra'n gweithio yn y Swisdir. Ar ôl gweithio gyda'r digartref yn Llundain am wyth mlynedd daeth adref i Gymru a phrynu hen fwthyn a'i droi'n gartref nyrsio. Roeddd hyn yn arloesol iawn meddai oherwydd roedd cymaint o alw am le o'r fath ac fe wnaethon nhw ateb y galw hwnnw drwy fentro. Hap a damwain wnaeth chwarae rhan nesa yn ei gyrfa. Wrth geisio golli pwysau drwy fynd am dro yn yr awyr iach fe ddechreuodd dynnu lluniau – ac arweiniodd hyn ati'n ennill cystadleuaeth a throi'r diddordeb yn obsesiwn.

Mae hi nawr wedi cael "lightbulb moment" yng ngwir ystyr y gair wrth sefydlu busnes arall gyda'i ail gŵr nath ddyfeisio bwlb LED newydd sydd ar fin gael ei farchnata gan gwmni Sony.

Cefndir athrawes sydd gan Lisa Fearn sydd wedi dechrau busnes ysgol coginio a garddio yng Nhaerfyrddin. Gan ei bod hi'n fam i bump o blant roedd dechrau busnes o'r cartref yn ddelfrydol. Nawr ma'r cwmni The Pumpkin Patch yn ffynnu drwy dysgu plant bach a mawr, a'u rhieni, i ddysgu am arddio a choginio gyda'i gilydd. Dyw hi ddim yn gwario dim ar hysbysebu, drwy hyrwyddo ar wefannau cymdeithasol a sgrifennu erthyglau yn y papur newydd lleol – a darlledu ar raglenni fel Prynhawn Da. Yn ystod y bore fe gafodd pawb wers ar sut i bobi bara.

Lisa Fearn

Rhiannon Roberts

Ann Mears

Gweithio o adref mae Ann Mears hefyd gyda'i busnes Cwmni Petal. Mynychodd glwb blodau Rhiwbeina, Caerdydd, a hi oedd yn helpu trefnu blodau i'r eglwys ond ar ôl gyrfa yn cadw cyfrifon fe symudodd cyfeiriad a dilyn ei dileit wrth fynd i astudio garddwriaeth yng Ngholeg Pencoed a dysgu rhedeg busnes. Cafodd bawb y cyfle i ennill ei threfniadau lliwgar mewn raffl ar ddiwedd y prynhawn.

Lliwgar tu hwnt yw gaith yr artist ifant o Aberaeon, Rhiannon Roberts. Mae ei gwaith yn dod yn fwy cyfarwydd erbyn hyn oherwydd ei bod wedi cynyddu'r nifer o ddeunyddiau y gwelir ei gwaith celf- nid yn unig i phrintiau a chardiau, ond powleni, coasters a matiau bwrdd. Maen nhw'n hynod o boblogaidd gyda thwristiaid sy'n helpu rhoi Cymru a Chymraeg ar y map, meddai. Mewn tair blynedd mae ei chwmni Rhiannon Art wedi sefydlu'i hun yn y Bae ac mae'n teithio bob cyfle gaiff hi i hyrwyddo'i gwaith mewn Eisteddfodau, gwyliau ac mewn ysgolion lle mae'n helpu plant i greu murluniau enfawr lliwgar yn ei harddull arbennig.

Gwenda Richards

Clybiau

MAE yna ystod eang o glybiau chwaraeon cymunedol yn ail ddechrau ar ôl y Pasg – gan gynnwys Nofio, Tenis Bwrdd, Plantos Heini a Gymnasteg – ac maent yn cael eu cynnal mewn amryw o leoliadau ar draws y Fro.

Mae yna glybiau newydd yn dechrau gyda dau glwb newydd mewn partneriaeth gyda 'Vale Tenis' yn Clwb Tenis Y Bontfaen ac yng Nghlwb Tenis Y Barri. Hefyd, ac fe fydd Clwb Athletau yn ail gychwyn yn Parc Jenner.

Am fwy o wybodaeth am y clybiau, cysylltwch â Gareth East ar 07557 322891 / garetheast@urdd.org

Mynd am dro yn y Fro

gyda Dai Lingual

BUODD yr 'Ooze' yn enw cyffredin ar gyfer yr Afon Eláí o amser y Normaniaid tan y 19eg ganrif. Ai dyna felly gwraidd enw'r band dawns tecno arbrofol yr Wwzz a oedd y Super Furry ei hun Cian Ciaran yn rhan ohoni..?

Enw arall ar yr afon oedd Afon Llai Llaid, enw oedd hefyd yn cael ei ddefnyddio hyd at ddechrau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg sydd yn golygu mwd llwydaidd yn ôl 'The Place Names of Penarth' gan Alan Thorne, sydd efallai ddim yn gyfarwydd gyda Gymraeg. Llai o ran maint i gymharu gyda'r Taf yw ystyr yr enw hynny buaswn i'n ei ddyfalu a dyma efallai gwir tarddiad yr enw os nad yr afon, wrth i hi dreiglo'r Llai i fod yn Afon Lai!

Ym marn Thorne, "raison d'être Penarth" yw'r Afon Eláí, gan fod y dref yn edrych dros y man lle daw'r afonydd ynghyd i greu un aber enfawr, megis Aberystwyth y Cote d'Elai. O edrych o ben Penarth, tan y cyfnod oll-ddiwydiannol ddisgynnodd ar yr ardal yn sgil dod o hyd i Lo Gorau'r Byd (deunydd crai i losgi egni, nid aberth da) gwelwyd CEFN Y WRACH : graean banc a oedd i'w gael ar ben wely o marl yn gorwedd oddi ar Penarth a'n gwahanu aberoedd yr Afonydd Taf ac Eláí nes iddi gael ei garthu nghanol y 19eg ganrif, a oedd yn ynys sych yn ystod trai ac yn berygl tanddwr i longau yn y llanw uchel.

Roedd yr enw Cymraeg Cefn Wrach yn llygriad o hen air Norseg 'rack'; gair i ddisgrifio ffiordau Scandinafia gan fwyaf ac yn golygu, 'rhywbeth sy'n cael ei throi ar ei fyny gyda gweithredoedd llanw a gwynt' sy'n disgrifio'n briodol iawn sut y cafodd ei ffurfio.

Gwelwn felly bod dylanwad Sgandinafia a'r diwydiannau trwm i'w gweld yn entymoleg ein Bro yn ogystal â mangre Roald Dahl yn y Bae a'r ambell i atgofiad o'r diwydiant glo sydd dal i'w gweld yna.

Calendr

Merched y Wawr

17/04/15: Gŵyl Wanwyn Merched y Wawr y De-Ddwyrain, 7.30pm yn Neuadd Lai Y Bontfaen; s.williams642@btinternet.com.

Adran Addysg Gydol Oes Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

20/04/15 a 27/04/15 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston; 'Gweithdy Digidol: Dewch â'ch teclun!' Gweithdy agored, am ddim. Cyfrifiaduron ar gael (5pm-7pm).

Canu yn Gymraeg' Dewch i ddysgu caneuon Cymraeg; addas i siaradwyr rhugl a dysgwyr (7-8.30pm).

20/04/15: Noson Scrabble; 6.30pm-8.30pm yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

24/04/15: Darlith a Chinio - "Straeon y Mabinogi" (gan Yr Athro Sioned Davies). £8.50 i gynnwys cinio ysgafn.

12.15pm yng Ngholeg Cymunedol y Bontfaen, Yr Hen Neuadd, Stryd Fawr y Bontfaen. Ffoniwch i gadw eich lle: 01446 773831.

27/04/15: Clwb Llyfrau – "Sais" gan Alun Cobb.

7.30pm-8.30pm yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

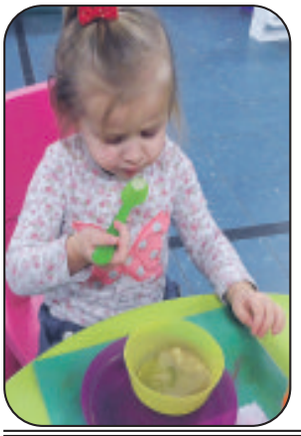
Bob dydd Llun 2pm-3pm yn Llyfrgell Penarth, Sesiynau Amser Stori am ddim yn ystod tymor Ysgol; mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk / 01446 733762.

Cymrodorion y Barri

21/04/15: I nodi canrif a hanner ers sefydlu'r Wladfa Gymreig ym Mhatagonia bydd Dr Walter Ariel Brooks yn olrhain hanes 'Y Drafod' - papur Cymraeg y Wladfa.

Festri Capel Tabernacl, Heol Holton y Barri am 7.15pm. Croes cynnes i bawb.

PhillyBears enjoys its celebrations



PHILLYBEARS playgroup which meets at 5th Barry Sea Scout Hall in Everard Street, has had a very busy time since January.

The topic for this term for the children has been celebrations. The first one they have been learning about is Chinese New Year and they had fun trying to work out if this year was the year of the goat or the year of the sheep.

The children loved making pancake rolls with Alyson and Teresa. They learned about the different vegetables that go in them. The children enjoyed making Chinese hats and eating noodles, prawn crackers and physalis. They also learned to count to 10 in Chinese.

In February the children celebrated Valentine's Day by making cards for their loved ones (Mum and Dad) and eating red food.

For Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) the children enjoyed watching pancakes being made and then eating them.

St David's Day was a fantastic time as the children really enjoyed dressing up in Welsh outfits or in rugby outfits. Then Steve made Welsh cakes with the children to take home for their families.

Mother's Day was all about making flower cards to give to their mothers.

The children loved World Book Day on March 5. To help celebrate Red Nose Day on March 13 all the children came to playgroup wearing red and brought a teddy with them. They also made red nose cakes to take home with them.

St Patrick's Day on March 17 was all about the colour green so the children did green colourings and had green fruit for snack time and came to playgroup wearing green.

Finishing the term was Easter, with Easter cards and Easter baskets to make. Then they made Easter nests with Alyson and Steve.

PhillyBear's Playgroup caters for children aged 18 months to five years old and has a big indoor area. For more information call Philippa on 07757 665363.

PW

FLORAL SOCIETY

THE next meeting of Barry Floral Society will be held at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry on Tuesday, April 14 when Mrs Beryl Griffiths of Longhope will give a demonstration entitled 'Floral Delights' at 2.15pm. New members welcome.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00293/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Convert existing property from 2 self-contained flats into a single dwelling, internal alterations. External fire escape metal staircase to be removed. Existing lean-to access to ground floor flat to be demolished and existing openings to be blocked up. New single storey extension to the rear of the property to infill where the external staircase were. New bi-folding doors to rear elevation
Location:/Lleoliad: 106, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00305/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Ground floor extension and balconies to rear
Location:/Lleoliad: Hawarden, 6, Church Place South, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00336/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed single and two storey extension
Location:/Lleoliad: Maltsters Cottage, Factory Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llanblethian

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/
Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00310/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Installation of bollards
Location:/Lleoliad: Barclays Bank Plc, 62, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting 62, High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II

Departure from Development Plan/
Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2015/00249/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of 79 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the East of St. Nicholas

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 9 April, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Who wants to build what, and where?

Miss Nancy Amery – **32 Fonmon Road, Rhoose** – Retrospective erection of a fence.

Mr Mark Newman – **9 Birch Grove, Barry** – Construct new infill, single storey, flat roof extension.

Mrs Katherine England – **3 Pinewood Close, Llandough** – Loft dormer extension to include bedroom and en-suite bathroom.

Mr Dean Lyons – **Kim Sharp Motors, Robins Lane, Barry** – Change of use of property from Class Use B2 (general industry) to Class Use C3 (residential) to include the addition of a single storey extension.

Mr Adam Musik – **35 Southey Street, Barry** – Proposed single storey side and rear extensions.

Mrs C Pugh – **Cartref, Llanquian Road, Aberthin** – Proposed detached garage.

Mr and Mrs Jonathan and Linda Western – **Brooklands, Pen Y Lan Road, Aberthin** – Extensions and alterations to dwelling (an amendment to original planning permission 2014/00389/FUL) to include dormers and garage.

Mr Jason Price – **Land to the north of the railway line off Pentir Y De, Rhoose** – Removal of Conditions 5, 6 and 7 attached to outline planning permission 2010/00686/EAO granted in respect of the residential development of up to 350 dwellings, the laying out of formal and informal open space and changing rooms, new means of vehicular access onto Pentir Y De and associated infrastructure at land to the north of the railway line, Pentir Y De, Rhoose.

Mr Gordon Mason – **Unit 1, Priority Business Park, Barry** – Alterations to the existing second floor of Unit 1 which includes the introduction of new windows at this level, one to the north west elevation and five to the north east elevation. In order to accommodate these windows, the lower sign to the north east will be removed and the sign to the north west relocated at the same level. Externally, it is proposed to develop the existing yard to Unit 1 which includes the removal of an existing cabin, diesel tank, barriers and container as indicated on drawing 7326-05-10. It is proposed to replace with a new Portakabin, cycle stands, additional car parking, lorry parking bays, secure fenced compound, shelter, two containers and bunded fuel tank.

Mr and Mrs A Jones – **138 Fontygary Road, Rhoose** – Single storey extension.

HSBC Banking plc – **HSBC, 85 Holton Road, Barry** – Existing external ATM to be replaced with new model ATM in same location.

Mr Simon Hawkins, WF Holmes & Co – **The Garage, Evans Street, Barry** – Remove existing window, remove stone wall below and make good stonework, opening to match existing front new door and frame with outer roller shutter door for pedestrian access into the reception area.

Mr Noel Thomas – **Court Farm Granary, Llansannor** – Proposed hay barn and plant store.

Mr and Mrs Steven Lewis – **The Links, off Pen Y Lan Road, Aberthin** – Erection of new five bedroom dwelling, with a ridge height 300mm above the ridge height approved in planning permission Ref 2014/01446/FUL.

Mr David Williams – **6 Caer Worgan, Llantwit Major** – Conversion of existing detached double garage to increase living space via extension link between existing two bedroom semi-detached dwelling and garage at 6 Caer Worgan, Llantwit Major. Ref 2015/00006/FUL.

Mr Lee Adams – **11, Heol Pilipala, Rhoose Point, Rhoose** – To convert existing integral garage into a dining room.

Mr McKenzie – **64 Colcot Road, Barry** – Two storey rear and side extension.

Redrow Homes (South Wales) Ltd – **Land to the east of St Nicholas** – Development of 79 houses and associated open space, vehicular and pedestrian access, landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Redlands House, Redlands Avenue, Penarth** – Provision of disabled scooter shed to rear of Redlands House.

Mr and Mrs Warren – **The Walled Cottage, 25 Britway Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolish existing single storey extension to rear, construct new two storey extension to rear of existing dwelling.

Mrs R Oakley – **3 Weston Avenue, Sully** – Two storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Ward – **7 Eckley Road, Sully** – Extension of existing garage plus associated works.

Mrs Juliet Piper – **Honeysuckle Cottage, Colwinston** – Front porch and rear single storey kitchen extension.

Ms Rosie Oreti – **4 Paget Place, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension to provide open plan kitchen and family space. Extension to front of existing garage and Juliet balcony at first floor.

Mr Michael Charles – **The Grange, 10 Baroness Place, Penarth** – Proposed rear aluminium conservatory/sun lounge and retention of garden store/shed to side.

Mr and Mrs Dennis Sulley – **8 Spencer Drive, Llandough** – First floor extension over existing kitchen.

Dr Matthew Williams – **106 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Convert existing property from two self contained flats into a single dwelling, internal alterations. External fire escape metal staircase to be removed. Existing lean-to access to ground floor flat to be demolished and existing openings to be blocked up. New single storey extension to the rear of the property to infill where the external staircases were. New bi-folding doors to rear elevation.

Mrs Heather Perkins –**Woodlands Farm, Pont Sarn Lane, Peterston Super Ely** – Retrospective application to convert a four car garage into disabled accommodation for son who is in a wheelchair.

Mr Mark Hocking – **3 Forrest Road, Penarth** – Conversion of existing three-bedroom detached bungalow with annexe into four-bedroom dormer bungalow. Extensions and alterations including demolition of annexe at rear of property and proposed dormer extensions.

Professor Peter Wells – **8 Wordsworth Avenue, Penarth** – The proposed works consist of building a single storey flat roof (living roof) extension to the rear of the property comprising dining area, toilet with shower and sitting area.

Mr Steven Hicks – **16 Meadowside, Penarth** – Rear single storey extension.

Mrs Amy Mote – **307 Barry Road, Barry** – Single storey rear extension.

Mrs Vicki Wiggins – **22 Cwrt Syr Dafydd, Llantwit Major** – Single storey extension to rear of house.

Mr and Mrs M Gaglani – **3 Baron Close, Penarth** – Proposed double storey extension to side extension to side elevation and single storey to rear elevation.

Mark Jones – **Hawarden, 6 Church Place South, Penarth** – Ground floor extension and balconies to rear.

Mr Paul Thomas – **28 Readers Way, Rhoose** – Two storey side and rear extension.

Mrs N Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – New stable/agricultural block.

Sinclairs Law – **The Cogan, 51 Hewell Street, Penarth** – Establish flat above The Cogan public house remains as residential use.

Barclays plc – **Barclays Bank plc, 62 High Street, Cowbridge** – Installation of bollards.

Mr Anthony Isles – **22 Lake Hill Drive, Cowbridge** – Proposed two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension, to form new garage and utility room to ground floor, and master bedroom and en-suite bathroom to first floor.

Mr Michael Rice – **4 Is y Coed, Wenvoe** – Extension to family room and minor internal alterations.

Dr Anthony Godfrey – **Flat 2, 66 Victoria Road, Penarth** – Single storey rear extension comprising a dining room accessed from the existing kitchen, a glazed roof verandah and a glazed greenhouse.

Plymouth Settled Estates – **Min y Don, 12 Marine Parade, Penarth** – Demolition of part of existing chimney to reduce height. Extension of existing pitched roof over reduced chimney with hipped end.

The occupier – **The Longfield, Factory Road, Llanblethian** – 10 – 15 per cent reduction and reshape of birch tree. Crown lift, 15 per cent crown reduction/thinning of Norway maple. Pollard back willow tree.

Mr Scott – **46 Trem y Don, Barry** – Proposed ground floor extension to living room with balcony to first floor garage conversion to form hobby room.

Mr Ed Svendson – **14 Dyffryn Place, Barry** – Demolition of garage, proposed two storey extension to form garage to ground floor and family room. Master bedroom suite to first floor.

Mrs Pauline Eason – **20 St Cyres Road, Penarth** – One two-storey replacement dwelling for existing 1.5 storey dwelling.

Mr Christopher Mackay – **66 Heol y Frenhines, Dinas Powys** – Proposed front garage conversion and rear extension.

Mr Simon Griffiths – **Rhos Dawl, Trerhyngyll** – Single storey garage to side elevation with dormers and alterations.

Mr and Mrs Peter Sampson – **15 Laburnum Way, Dinas Powys** – Replacement single storey extension to rear, new pitched roof over garage and entrance hall with associated works.

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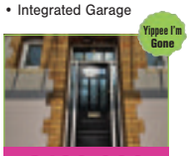

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Glan Y Mor, Llantwit Major
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GCH Combi
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xxx

Happy 12th Birthday

ABIGAIL BAKER
on 15th April
Lots of love, hugs & kisses, Mum, Dad, Joe and all the family
x x x

GEM FAMILY NOTICES

PARSONS
Thomas James

Peacefully, on March 27 at Morriston Hospital, Jim of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Iris, dearly loved father of Barry, Michael, Pauline and the late Jimmy and John, much loved by all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, April 16, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cardiac Ward, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend (please make cheques payable to W James & Sons charity account) c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

KRISTENSEN
Eunice Mary Irene

Passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 26 at Llandough Hospital, aged 90 years surrounded by her family. Much loved mum of David and Paul and their families, and sisters Anne, Gillian and brother David.

Committal at Barry Crematorium on Friday, April 10 at 1pm, followed by memorial service at St David's Church, Colcot.

Family flowers only with donations in lieu of flowers to cancer research charities.

GRIFFITHS
Thelma Mary (Mrs G)

Died peacefully at home on March 26, 2015, aged 98 years. Beloved wife of the late Em, much loved mother of Ann and mother-in-law of Ray. Grandmother of Emma and Chris and great grandmother of Thomas and Lottie.

Funeral will be held at St Cadoc's Catholic Church, Cowbridge on Tuesday, April 14 at 11am, followed by a private burial. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Crossroads in the Vale Ltd, Westhouse, Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF64 2YG.

WEBSTER
Charles Edward

Passed away peacefully at Countess Mountbatten Hospice in Southampton, on Sunday, March 29. Much loved husband of Elizabeth (Liz). Beloved father of Mark, Paul and his wife Amanda. Proud grandfather of Lauren, Alice, Joseph and Emma.

Funeral service at the Portchester Crematorium on Thursday, April 16 at 1.45pm. Special thanks to the caring staff on F4 at Queen Alexandra Hospital and Countess Mountbatten Hospice. Family flowers only please. If desired, donations in memory of Charles can be made to Parkinson's UK or the Countess Mountbatten Hospice.

GRIFFITHS
Evan Llewellyn

Peacefully on March 24 at his home in St Nicholas, Llew, aged 96 years. Beloved husband of the late Molly, "Appy Pappy" will be sadly missed by the five generations he leaves behind.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, April 17, service 2pm at Trehill Presbyterian Church, St Nicholas, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to RNLI c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BAILEY
Graham Whitney

27th March 2015. Adored husband, best friend and soulmate of Wendy. Devoted stepfather of Mark and Tracy Bailey, both deceased.

Funeral service 12.30pm on Wednesday April 15, St James Church, Wick. Family flowers only, donations direct to Cancer Research UK.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeral Home, Bridgend, telephone 01656 653156.

EVANS
Wilfred

Unexpectedly and peacefully in Great Longstone, Derbyshire, on 26 March 2015, Wilf of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Mary.

Resting at WA Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Wednesday, April 15 in Coychurch Crematorium at 10.30am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice c/o the Funeral Home.

JONES
Teresa Ann (Teri)

Peacefully in her sleep at Holme Towers on March 29, Teri, aged 66, sadly passed away. Devoted wife of Vincent, loving mother of Louisa, Simon and Matthew, also mother-in-law to Mark and Emily. Cherished nan to Luke and Joshua, Bronte, Maisy and Lawson.

Teri will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at The Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road (opp Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Wednesday, April 15 at 10am followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 11am.

Immediate family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to Marie Curie, Penarth. Black attire not necessary, you may wear something colourful in memory of Teri.

All enquires to Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

CRONIN
Rosemary Ann

Rose passed away suddenly but peacefully at home in Penarth on Saturday, March 28, aged 80 years. Beloved wife of Joe, much loved mum of Carol, Sharon, Teresa and Sylvia. A wonderful nana to Cara, Phillip, Jason, Bethan, Hayley and Rhya. Great grandmother of Mason and Cole.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral service to be held at St Joseph's Church, Penarth, on Friday April 10 at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Barry Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, may be made to the British Heart Foundation or Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o Penarth Funeral Directors, 30 Hickman Road, Penarth, CF64 2AL.

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'COME FORWARD!' Council urges community library groups

THE process for submitting 'expressions of interest' in running a number of libraries in the Vale is now open.

Following consultation with residents and library users, the Vale Council announced in March that it would be seeking to develop community-managed libraries in Dinas Powys, Rhoose, Wenvoe, Sully and St Athan.

The council is now accepting expressions of interest in running one or more of these libraries.

Jennifer Hill, director of learning and skills, said: "We are seeking to develop these libraries in conjunction with local communities.

The council will continue to provide the book stock, peripatetic professional librarian support and back up support which can be accessed through any of the four town libraries based at Penarth, Barry, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major. We will also support the recruitment and training of volunteers."

Individuals or groups interested in running a community library, are now being asked to submit an initial expression of interest by May 18.

Following an initial appraisal of the expressions of interest, the council will work with interested parties to assist them in developing business cases ahead of a second deadline of July 12.

Decisions will then be made on whether or not to transfer individual libraries to the community, on the basis of these business cases.

Those wishing to express an interest in running a library, or who would like more information, should contact Andrew Borsden, lead officer for community learning, by emailing AMBorsden@valeof glamorgan.gov.uk.

Frankenstorm wins, by royal appointment!

LLANHARAN'S Tom David, assistant trainer to the Princess Royal's daughter Zara Phillips, rode a winner for her at the North Cotswold Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Paxford on Easter Monday.

Riding her Frankenstorm, the 4-6 favourite, Tom in a close-fought finish managed to beat his solitary rival Stow Hill by a short head.

There was a tremendous crowd at the South Pembrokeshire Point-To-Point at Lydstep near Tenby, where Tom's younger brother Evan, riding Anger Management, finished third in the men's open race behind Sir Du Bearn and Rosies Peacock. The winner won by half-a-length with Anger Management 20 lengths back in third place.

David Brace, of the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, saw his five-year-old bay gelding Dunraven Storm land the restricted race by a length from the Wayne Maskill partnered Dream Bolt.

Dunraven Storm was partnered by Bradley Gibbs, who rode a well judged race, then half-an-hour later or so, Mr Brace OBE witnessed his 13-year-old grandson Connor Brace win the 138cms pony race on his 12-year-old mare Molly.

There were only two ponies for the 148cms pony race and Connor, on the long odds-on favourite Dont Tell Dai, was expected to make it a double.

But it was Jack Tudor, aged 12, riding his seven-year-old mare She's A Goodun, which emerged the winner.

BRIAN LEE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hustings

FocusBARRY is hosting a parliamentary hustings on Wednesday, April 15 at West End Club, Saint Nicholas Road Barry, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

It is a chance to put questions to candidates for a seat in Westminster at next month's general election.

Diabetes event

VALE of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group will meet on Tuesday, April 21 in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm-9pm.

The speaker, Andrew Crowder, will be talking about retinopathy and practical exercises involving photographing members' eyes. All welcome.

Athletic continue their fine form with win over RGC1404

ABOVE: Robert Evans makes a break PICTURE BY GLENNSPORTS.

BRIDGEND Athletic's season gets better and better.

Having defeated fourth-placed Merthyr and whitewashed fifth-placed Pontypool (only their third league game ever not scoring) they dominated third-placed RGC1404 to run out 18-10 winners for three successive league wins against top sides.

Coaches John Apsee, David Williams and Ian Greenslade, having seen the Athletic facing possible relegation at Christmas with only three wins from their first 11 games, have completely turned around the club's fortunes winning eight of the next 11 and picking up a further 37 league points to pass the half century of points on 51. The three losses have all resulted in losing bonus points.

The Athletic kicked off into a stiff breeze. From the off the Athletic took the game to the north Walians. After five minutes a break from outside half Robert Evans saw RGC transgress at a maul and Evans was on target with the resultant penalty.

The Athletic pack completely dominated all phases of set play. Former Athletic hooker and youth cap Evan Yardley and his fellow RGC front row forwards were given a lesson in scrummaging by a much lighter Athletic pack.

Props Rod Apsee, Matthew Norman and hooker Nathan Holman's superior technique saw the heavier RGC outfit going backwards at most scrums. At the lineout, locks Darren Deguerra, Tom Penry-Ellis and flankers Ben Howe and Sean Williams were dominant against the much taller visitors – even taking three lineouts against the throw on their own five-metre line.

In the loose, Williams and Howe turned in joint man of the match performances in both attack and defence, while No 8 Griff Davies was his usual dependable self, cleaning up any poor possession and turning defence into attack.

Against the run of play on a rare incursion into Athletic territory, RGC were awarded a penalty which full back Afon Bagshaw goaled to level the scores.

The Athletic back division was disrupted when centre Michael Hathaway pulled a hamstring and youth centre Shaun Wilcox came on for his league debut.

The Athletic set up a driving maul and were held up on the try line – but conceded a penalty for holding on. However, from a line out 15 metres out, RGC were unable to halt a well-drilled Athletic driving maul and prop Matthew Norman was driven over the try line. Evans converted to open up a 10-3 lead.

On the stroke of halftime the Athletic repeated the feat with the same player, Norman, emerging with the ball for his second try to give the Athletic a deserved 15-3 halftime lead.

RGC came out at the start of the second half with the intention of trying to nullify the Athletic forward performance by running the ball from everywhere.

The Athletic also entered into the spirit by employing their own back division. Half backs Jake Williams and Evans were always ready to look for a break while big centres Tom Morgan and Shaun Wilcox posed a physical threat in midfield.

Wings Stuart Griffiths and Dan Howells and full back Lyndsey MaCausland were also effective runners. However both defences nullified each other.

The Athletic did stretch their lead to 18-3 through a second Evans penalty. With eight minutes remaining a well-worked training field move saw wing Tian Loots break through the Athletic defence to cross for a try converted by centre James Lang.

If the visitors thought this would bring about a thrilling finale they were mistaken. The Athletic reverted to a tight forward game and spent the last eight minutes camped inside the RGC 22 to send the visitors on the long trip back to north Wales empty handed. All 18 players used, including replacements Lloyd Griffiths and prop Wayne Fooks, played their part in a well-constructed victory.

Team manager Paul Hearne summed up the game: "A very consistent performance spoilt a little by a 20-minute lapse in concentration in the second half when we could have kept the scoreboard ticking. Nevertheless a good win and we can look forward to visiting runaway league leaders Bargoed this Saturday with confidence!"

Bargoed have won all 21 league games with bonus point wins from 19 of them. The Athletic have a good record against Bargoed, doing a league double over them last season and losing 15-31 at home early in the season when the team's performance was well below the current standard.

It would really rock the league if the Athletic could spring a surprise. The players will do their utmost.

The club would like to thank Simon Apsee of J.H Apsee & Sons Removals and Storage specialists for their continued support in sponsoring this fixture.

AB

Rugby league greats will appear at fundraiser event

WALES Rugby League president Mike Nicholas is launching a series of fundraisers for Welsh Conference Rugby League clubs.

The first will be held for Bridgend Blue Bulls on Friday, May 22, at The Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl.

This will be a sportsmen's evening with special guest speakers in dual code Welsh and Lions international and former Blue Bulls player, John Devereux, and former Great Britain rugby league international, Andy Gregory.

Nicholas will be master of ceremonies and said: "This is the first in a series of events we can do for Welsh Conference community clubs. Bridgend Blue Bulls are first following Stephen Smith's discussions with myself, but anyone can be next.

"I would love to see fellow clubs helping each other out by booking tables at each other's events and building a great community spirit in rugby league in Wales. Please contact me if you want your club to be next with a proposal for a date and venue."

Please email tmbluebulls@gmail.com or call 07712 243581 to buy tickets, and if you want your club to be next in Mike Nicholas' Rugby League fundraising nights, please contact Nickomanagement@hotmail.com.

IG

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Several missed opportunities prove to be costly for Kenfig Hill

ABOVE: Ben Clarke on the attack for Kenfig Hill. PICTURES BY PETER GILLING.

ABOVE: Chris Leyshon finds himself caught up in a tug of war.

THE first half of this game was a case of opportunities missed by Kenfig Hill while Mumbles took theirs very well, scoring three tries to a solo effort from young Mules wing Aaron Grabham, the half time score Kenfig Hill 8, Mumbles 20.

The Mules started the the second half by raising the tempo of the game, resulting in two quick tries, one by loose-head prop Jamie Uren and one by left wing Ben Clarke that followed an excellent move, with fine handling, from their own goal line.

Mumbles soon got back into the game with their superior line-out while Kenfig Hill started to struggle to make use of what possession they had.

Yet another yellow card, plus too many handling errors and missed line-outs by the Mules, confirmed a disappointing home defeat, the final score 20-26 to Mumbles.

Kenfig Hill scorers: tries – Ben Clarke, Aaron Grabham and Jamie Uren. Penalty – Nicky Giles. Conversion – Nicky Giles. Mumbles scorers: tries – Stuart Nicholls, Matt Reeves and Aled Mason. Penalties – Adam Nicklyn (three). Conversion – Adam Nicklyn.

DHD

BARRY & DISTRICT MENS SKITTLE LEAGUE RESULTS

DIVISION 1:

Barry Park'B'(R.Freeman 27) 263, Mighty Dockers P.Burrough 30) 274; Blue Monkey (R.Fox 28) 281, Park Lads (D.Morgan 26) 252; Cavaliers (L.Payne, G.Stephenson 31) 283, 49'ers.(G.Yarr 30) 280; Colcot Boys (T.Sherrin 28) 272, The Merrymen (H.Beaudette 32) 264; Geest (L.Western 29) 247, Ex-Servicemen (T.Caciar 30) 258; Park Rangers (R.Webb 26) 266, Barry Park 'B' (A.Martin 34) 286; The Hairy Lemons (J.Hoare 26) 258, Bunker Boys (D.Hewitson 27) 258; The Merrymen (C.Leckie 28) 295, The Hairy Lemons (L.Russell 30) 289; West End Stars (D.Beattie 27) 241, Park Rangers (T.Power 28) 250.

Division 2:

BP Breakaways (J.Gee, P.Gardner 28) 277, Witchill Wizards (C.Tipton 27) 198; Buffs Exiles (T.Wackham, I.Dowdell 24) 237, Sea View (A.Chick 25) 250; Road Runners (B.Smith 32) 280. Tynewydd Lads (K.Germon 26) 249; The Royalists (J.McEwan 27) 224, Exiles (R.Lougher, J.Miles 31) 306; Tynny Fliers (G.Hobbs 30) 285, The Royalists (D.Wright, M.Derman 32) 291; Willie Wombles (I.Draisey 35) 295, Posties (R.Hunt 27) 256; Witchill Poachers (D.Richardson 35) 343, Barry Social (F.Hall 30) 320.

Division 3:

'H'Bells (E.Collier31) 258, Cannon Balls (D.Pike, D.Cannon. S.Pike 29) 295; KP Monkeynuts (M.Williams 222, Billy Bluebirds (D,Watkins 28) 235; KP Monkeynuts (M.Davies 30) 296, The Alternatives (O.Jones 28) 268; The Rejects (G.Ryan 29) 304, Castle Boys (M.Bobbett, N.Hughes 29) 289; West End Fliers (T.Clements 30) 237, Billy Bluebirds (G.Norris 27) 261.

HR

Seaview Lads' presentation night success

THE Seaview Lads' recent awards presentation night was a great success, and congratulations to all who were recognised on the day.

In addition to Mickey's usual monopoly we had a few new names on the trophies and the prestigious sportsman of the year trophy was awarded to Ron for services above and beyond the call of duty.

Shore fishing has been getting better through March and we have seen good attendances of members actually landing some really nice specimens.

The summer species of rays, dogs and even bass are coming to the scales and we have enjoyed a late spring run of cod with some excellent weights being recorded, including 30 fish in just one match!

Fingers crossed the fishing will stay as good into the coming months and reward everyone for their efforts.

MARCH RESULTS

1st P Coles 0.900 kg, 2nd J Jones 0.790 kg, 3rd G Mitchell 0.560 kg, 4th S Spitteri 0.260 kg, 5th M Warner 0.060 kg.

March 22 - 1st D Crump 8.850 kg (seven cod), 2nd P Coles 5.1 kg (five cod), 3rd K Salah 4.667 kg, 4th M Langford 3.575 kg, 5th N Brag 3.200 kg, 6th S Doble 3.220 kg.

March 29 - 1st M Langford 2.425 kg, 2nd K Salah 1.880 kg, 3rd J Bray 1.620 kg.

JC

Sully Centurions LATEST NEWS

OUTDOOR nets start today (April 9) at Burnham Avenue, Sully, at 6.30pm for Sully Centurions.

The first friendly match of the season is versus Ponthir CC this Sunday, April 12, at 1.30pm at Burnham Avenue.

The two joint friendly skippers are Shae Ellis and Owain Sullivan – all players are asked to contact them with availability.

MF

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Memories of point-to-points...

THIS week, Brian Lee recalls the point-to-point meeting that he attended which got him into a lot of trouble and cost him his job as pro for the west Wales Point-To- Point Area.

UNDER the heading 'Beer Thugs Spoil Races', this is what I reported in The Glamorgan GEM on May 6, 1999.

"In all my 33 years of reporting on the Welsh point-to-point scene, I have never seen anthing like I did on Bank Holiday Monday at the Banwen Miners Hunt point-to-point steeplechases at Resolven.

"Unruly beer-swilling youngsters - certainly not hunt-racing enthusiasts - booed the jockeys of losing horses, while others played football among the crowd and made a general nuisance of themselves by leaning on parked cars and making threatening gestures to some of the racegoers.

"One jockey was so upset by the jeers that he dismounted and walked towards the troublemakers before managing to restrain himself.

"The trouble really started two days earlier when a car containing boxes of racecards was stolen and set alight. Beer cans and rubbish were strewn all over the Pentreclwydau Racecourse, which was being used for the first time."

There were differing views of my report, which had also appeared in the Racing Post Weekender and the hunt-secretary writing to the paper complained that "it cannot pass without being refuted. We did attract a huge crowd and they certainly didn't behave in the manner in which your paper reported. As secretary of the meeting I had no reports of yobbish acitivities, people playing football or such like. All we heared from those who commented was 'we hope it will be held next year'."

I can quote comments of Simon Claise, secretary of the Jockey Club's point-to-point department, who said on reading that report: "I didn't think I was at the same meeting." It would be helpful to point-to-pointing and racing in general if your correspondents painted an accurate picture of the Welsh scene instead of creating fantasies which only assist the detractors of our sport. The publicity officer of the Local Authority was present and full of praise for the meeting. Maybe the Racing Post reporter (that was me) was affected by the heat of the day."

However, there were those who saw my side of the story and Gina Groom of Pencoed told the Racing Post Weekender: "I am writing to express my concern at the lack of organisation at the Banwen meeting on May 3. Unlike other point-to-points, the crowd was largely drunken gangs who left thousands of cans and bottles on and around people's cars. There were no bins for people to use, a shortage of toliet facilites and a bottle neck in the viewing area which resulted in huge queues to get to the bookmakers or refreshments. I hope this isn't an indication of future meetings."

Bob McGrath wrote: "The only thing that marred it for me was the behaviour of some obviously drunken newcomers. These drunken louts played football among the crowd and in one instance I saw a small child lowered over the ropes to fetch a ball as the horses were going to post. These morons left their beer cans all over the place and made it difficult to get into one's own car as they were leaning on the doors. Worst of all, some jeered losing riders in a most unsporting manner – something I have never witnessed at a point-to-point."

Mrs Denise Williams, writing to The Glamorgan GEM, said: "I felt I had to write following a report in The GEM regarding your racing correspondent, Mr Brian Lee being banned from attending any future point-to-point meetings at the Banwen Miners. Mr Lee had written a report about the meeting and the bad behaviour of the crowd. Never, in 20 years of attending point-to-points, have I witnessed such rude, thoughtless, inconsiderate people, who booed the losers and hissed and shouted nasty comments to the jockeys.

"I had my own horse running at the meeting, which was pulled up due to a nose bleed. As I ran up the course to collect the horse, which was in some distress, a gang of drunks jeered, hissed and shouted disgusting comments about the horse not continuing to race. Anyone with common sense, and not drunk, could see why."

Mrs Williams went on to say that one lady who had the courage to ask them to stop shouting was "...stunned at the abusive replies".

Incidentally, one person who won't forget the meeting is Aberthin National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan. He rode a treble on Dotted Line (Members), Bel De Moor (Maiden one) and Jo Jo's best (maiden three). All three were trained by Bridgend's John Moore.

Worcestershire's Angela Rucker, who rode a winner at the Banwen Miners' meeting last year, took the ladies' open race on Night Wind.

At the Llangeinor Hunt Steeplechases, Llancarfan's Evan Williams was also in brilliant form riding a treble on Rave-On-Hadley (confined), Colebrook Willie (Maiden division one) and Castle Mews (maiden division three). Ex-hurdler Race-On-Hadley, who cost his joint owners Richard Western and Catherine Williams just £500, won by a distance after making every post a winning one.

Linda Parka's grey gelding Alais Parker Jones, was a shock 33-1 winner of the restricted open under Mark Lewis and Peter Bowen's Iffeee took the men's open. If my memory serves me right Iffee was Peter's first winner under rules at Sedgefield.

Meanwhile Bridgend butcher Jonathan Tudor rode his first winner of the season on his 10-year-old Billy Gwyn, which finished alone in the members' race.

Reporting for The GEM on the Llangibby that year under the heading Vale-trained horse Reigns Supreme, I wrote: "Creme Supreme, a nine-year-old grey gelding qualified with the Glamorgan Hunt was an impressive winner of the confined race. Owned by the Vale's Joanne Hegerty and trained by Bob Mason at Llandow, Creme Supreme, ridden by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, won by six lengths from the south Hereford invader, Le Baron.

"Phil and Kathryn Dando's Kristal Haze, confidently ridden by Phil Williams, was an easy winner of the Horse and Hound mares club championship, romping home 25 lengths ahead of the favourite Bit Of A Citizen."

However, Bit Of a Citizen's connections had plenty to smile about later when she won the Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National at the Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases at Bonvilston. Ridden by Evan Williams and wearing blinkers for the first time she won by 20 lengths from the pacemaking Saffron Moss, with the previous year's winner, High Guardian, a further length away in third spot.

'Watch Out For Christian' was the heading of my end of the season piece in which I wrote: "A feature of the 1999 Welsh hunt racing season was the riding of Bridgend schoolboy, Christian Williams. Christian, aged 16, rode eight winners in his first season and has won the Daily Telegraph national novice riders' title."

Well, Christian went on to ride under rules and came close to winning a Grand National. He rode a number of big race winners and, but for injury curtailing his career, we would have heard a lot more from him.

My awards for the 1999 season were as follows- Biggest Surprise Award – David Parker's Alais Parker Jones, winning at the Llangeinor after being pulled up in his previous six races.

Most Promising Rider – Christian Williams. Great Achievement Award – Pip Jones, retaining her national title and notching-up her 200th winner. Great Achievement Award – owner/trainer Dillwyn Thomas saddling his 200th winner. Most Improved Rider Award-Nick Jones who came close to winning the novice riders' title. Veteran Riders' Award - Phil Williams, who bounced back with six winners after injuries.

My thanks to those readers who have told me they enjoy my blasts from the pasts and if you have any pictures, press cuttings you want to share you can contact me on 02920736438 or e-mail brianlee4@virginmedia.com.

BRIAN LEE

Barry & District league results and tables

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 7, Rhoose Social 8; Cadoxton Cons 12, Railway 3; Wyndham Cons 6, Liberals 9; West End Wanderers 7, Moors Boys 8.

League table: Cadoxton Cons 186, Liberals 185, Wyndham Cons 184, Moors Boys 179, West End Wanderers 171, West End 167, Rhoose Social 163, Railway 145.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

League table: Sea View B 119, West End C 114.5, Allsorts 100, King William XII 98, West End D 86.5, Slammers 86, Barries Boys 83.5, Rugby Club 82, Rhoose Social A 80.5, Rhoose Social B 74, Rhoosters 73.5, Rhoose Social C 63.5, Liberals A 59, Runway Club 54.5, Cambrian Flyers 54, Liberals C 52.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Harbour B 4, Wyndham Cons C 1; Rhoose Social C 0, Savoy A 5; Cadoxton Cons Z 5, Rhoose Social B 0; Harbour A 2, Wyndham Cons A 3; West EndC 5, Savoy B 0; Penarth Cons B 2, Cadoxton Cons B 3.

League table: Harbour B 94, Savoy A 92, West End C 75, Cadoxton Cons B 72, Cadoxton Cons Z 68, Rhoose Social B 56, Rhoose Social C 55, Wyndham Cons A 55, Harbour A 54, Penarth Cons B 44, Savoy B 43, Wyndham Cons C 42.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Market Street C 3, West End B 2; Cadoxton Cons A 2, Market Street B 3; Services Social B 3, Sully Sports A 2; Penarth Cons D 3, Railway B 2; Railway C 2, Liberators 3.

League table: Railway A 86, Market Street C 71, Railway B 67, Market Street B 66, Liberators 65, Penarth Cons D 65, Services Social B 64, Cadoxton Cons A 57, Sully Sports A 57, Penarth Cons A 54, *Railway C 44, West End B 44 (* = points deducted).

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Cowbridge RFC spring into action and pick up a very valuable Easter win

ON a beautiful warm spring afternoon Cowbridge entertained Canton RFC at the Athletic Field.

This was a crucial game for Cowbridge, trying to distance themselves from the lower reaches of the league and following last week's disappointment at Llandaff North, Cowbridge were able to field a full squad.

Canton kicked off and Cowbridge showed attacking intent from the start as prop Ben Worral stormed out of the 22, taking play into the Canton half.

With a couple of charging runs from hooker Rhys Price and a clever steal by scrum half Richie Howson from a Canton scrum, Cowbridge had their first scoring opportunity with a penalty which went just wide. It was now Canton's turn to attack and some desperate defence by Cowbridge denied a couple of try opportunities.

A good break out of defence by Howson and full back Tom Harrison took Cowbridge up to halfway but Canton were soon on the attack again, resulting in a simple penalty after 22 minutes.

Canton continued to put pressure on Cowbridge, particularly in the scrums, leading to a second penalty with five minutes of the first half remaining. Veteran Dave Breed replaced Ben Worall at prop and from the kick off young wing Huw Moorcraft broke up to the 22 and Cowbridge were awarded a penalty for a deliberate knock on which again was just wide.

From the ensuing drop-out centre Huw Lougher broke through the Canton defence taking play to within yards of the Canton line. After a few charges at the line by the pack the ball was spun along the backs for Tom Harrison to glide over for a fine team try, to make the halftime score Cowbridge 5 Canton 6.

After a lull at the start of the second half, after 10 minutes Cowbridge were awarded a penalty in the Canton 22. As quick as a flash Richie Howson took a quick tap and was over in the corner as Cowbridge led for the first time in the game.

Cowbridge then suffered a torrid time for the next 10 minutes, especially in the scrum. After conceding several penalties, the referee brought out the yellow card. Canton battered the Cowbridge line but the home defence was superb, reminiscent of Wales against Ireland.

The whole pack put their bodies on the line with the always dynamic Connor Boys and Rhod Walker giving their all along with Alex Lewis, Emyr Stone and Harrison Griffiths. With Rhys Jones, Geraint Thomas, Dave Roper and Tom Larkin replacing Dave Breed, Huw Moorcraft, Alex Lewis and Kyle Jones, Cowbridge finally got a penalty to get out of the 22.

Inching their way into the Canton half, strong running by Rhys Jones and centre Tom Sterling resulted in a penalty which hit the posts. Cowbridge continued to attack and Lougher, Harrison and Howson all came close.

With five minutes to go Canton were reduced to 14 players after a red card for stamping. Cowbridge continued to batter the Canton line but were just unable to add to the score, the final score Cowbridge 10, Canton 6.

A vital hard-fought win for Cowbridge with everybody giving their all. The large crowd (including 50 visitors from Clisson) enjoyed an exciting game, Cowbridge finishing the stronger of the two teams after their fine defensive effort after halftime

Sunday saw a Cowbridge select XV play an exciting open game against our visitors from twin town Clisson.

On another glorious day the large crowd saw a Cowbridge victory by several tries to one with outstanding efforts from Jamie Basset, Alan Thomas and the ageing Huw Moseley, although everyone contributed to a great occasion.

In the clubhouse afterwards chairman John Griffiths presented Clisson with ties and jerseys to commemorate their visit and the Clisson chairman reciprocated.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this a fantastic day, especially John Powell for his organisational skills, Ceri (who must have prepared over 300 meals over the weekend) and Meg and all the bar staff who worked so hard behind the scenes, and to new grandfather Richard Killick for organising the halftime bubbly.

This Saturday the first team travel to Llantwit Major and the following Saturday take on St.Albans at home.

The youth BC play Llandaff at home this Saturday and on April 16 travel to Llandaff North to play Llanishen in a semi final of the East District Cup; the youth BD play Llandaff North at home on April 18.

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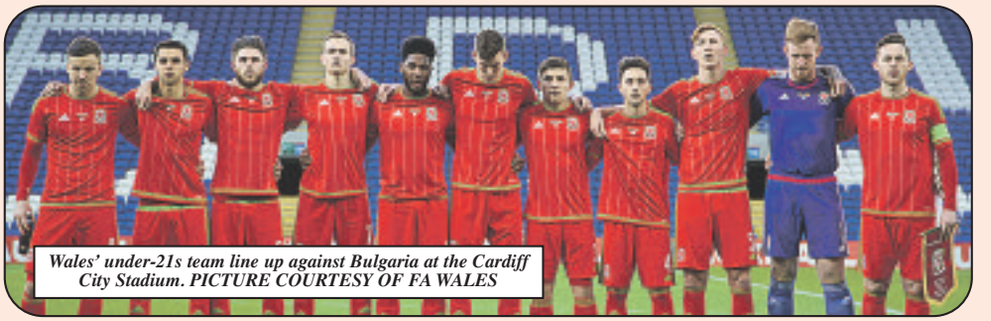
Wales under-21s off to a flying start!

IT is worth noting, amidst the current praise being levelled at the Welsh senior football team, that nine of the 14 players who turned out in that emphatic 3-0 win over Israel had previously played for the under-21s team, a reminder, if any were needed, of the importance of bringing talent through the age group.



Wales' under-21s team line up against Bulgaria at the Cardiff City Stadium. PICTURE COURTESY OF FA WALES

While Wales seniors took a gigantic step towards France and Euro 2016 with that Israeli win, attentions were turned to the under-21s team, who began the process of qualifying for the Euro 2017 tournament in fine style with a 3-1 win over Bulgaria at the Cardiff City Stadium on March 31.

No doubt buoyed by the achievements of their senior counterparts, the Welsh tore into Bulgaria from the off, all three of their goals coming in the opening 25 minutes of the game, two from striker Tommy O'Sullivan and the other from the head of defender (and Bridgend boy) Josh Yorwerth.

With both players on the books at Cardiff City, it was fitting that they should be on target, the win giving Geraint Williams' team the perfect start to a group that also contains Denmark, Romania, Armenia and Luxembourg.

Not the most devilish of groups, but the under-21s team are yet to grace this age group's version of the European Championships, most cruelly, perhaps, being denied a place in the finals with a 5-4 aggregate defeat to England in 2008 (that England team containing, amongst others, Joe Hart and James Milner).

The success of the senior team has shown that records are (hopefully) made to be broken, and this current crop of youngsters most certainly have the ability to break the hoodoo and march onto the championships in two years time.

As well as O'Sullivan and Yorwerth, there is Wes Burns (educated at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg) plying his trade at Bristol City but currently on loan at Cheltenham Town, goalkeeper Christian Dibble (son of former Welsh international Andy) and Ryan Hedges (on the books of Swansea but currently on loan at Leyton Orient) to name but a few.

It's raw potential to be sure, and one look at the two teams from that 2008 double-header shows that, for every Hart or Aaron Ramsey there's a Michael Mancienne or Lewin Nyatanga, but potential that, under the steely new regime that has brought cohesion and success at every age group, has every chance of blossoming into fully-realised talent.

It may be early days for the under-21s, but they have no reason to fear their qualifying group, with their next fixture in September away to Luxembourg – and a few performances like last Tuesday night should stand them in the best possible stead to follow in the senior team's footsteps and (hopefully) make history.

GARETH JAMIESON

PG10 PLAYERS TAKE A TRIP TO DUBAI!

PG10 Coaching recently took a team to Dubai to take part in an international tournament.

IN 2022 the FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place in Qatar. This is the first time a country in the Middle East will host the World Cup.

With plans already in motion in the middle east to host the event, PG10 Coaching and a team of young people from different parts of Wales plus players from Dubai, Mexico, Spain, Scotland, Algeria and Malta academies, travelled to Dubai to take part in a unique FIFA-regulated international football tournament.

The team were the only team from the UK competing in the prestigious event. The tournament attracted teams from across the world from countries such as USA (New York), Canada, Oman, France, South Africa, India, China, Africa, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and many more. The players also met Canadian all time top goalscorer and MLS Toronto FC player Dwayne De Rosario.

The team came in third place after beating Bocca Juniors 4-2. Peter Griffiths, who is head coach and manager of PG10 Coaching, said: "The tournament was a wonderful opportunity, not only for the players football development but also provided the young people with essential life skills and the opportunity to learn about different cultures in a competitive and fun sporting environment."

For more information about PG10 please go to www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

Hunt takes place this Saturday

The Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Steeplechases take place this Saturday at Ystradowen.

The first of the seven races take place at 2pm and the principal race of the day is the John Lovell Memorial Mens Open Race.

The winning horse will qualify for the £7,500 Bonham Men's Open Point-To-Point Championship Final Hunter Chase to be held at Cheltenham on April 14.

The trainer to watch out for is Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor, who has been in fine form of late and last week saddled three winners at the Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases (*see report below*).

Jonathan, a former point-to-point rider himself, recently celebrated his 50th birthday, and although he rode a hat-trick on several occasions, last week was the first time he trained three winners.

Jonathan, who used to play rugby for Cowbridge seconds, rode his first winner in 1983 on his 18th birthday when steering home his own horse, Bright Hope, at the South Pembrokeshire Hunt Steeplechases.

The highlight of his race riding career came in 1988 at Towcester when he landed The Times Hunter Chase on his own horse, St Helen's Boy.

One year, he set a seasonal personal best of 10 winners and won the Bill Jones Trophy which goes to the leading rider in south Wales. He rode his last winner in 1999 on Ollandale at the Golden Valley fixture.

JONATHAN'S HAT-TRICK

Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor can boast that he rode several hat-tricks as a rider; and now, after last Saturday's Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Llanvapley, he can boast that he has had a hat-trick as a trainer.

The first leg of Jonathan's treble was initiated when Repeat Business, the odds-on favourite, landed the men's open race by 10 lengths from Knockgraffon King.

Owner Jeff Bird was holidaying in Cyprus so Jonathan gave him a running commentary of the final circuit on his mobile phone. Good job he didn't give him a full commentary as winning rider James Tudor, Jonathan's cousin, said: "He missed every fence apart from the last two and those he flew."

Hector Worsley rode Jonathan's next winner, Always A Chance, who proved too speedy for Driftwood Haze in the restricted race. However, Tudor was back in the saddle on Banned In Bhutan for the second division of the split open maiden race.

An early faller in its previous race, this syndicate horse bought from National Hunt jockey Paul Moloney won by six lengths from the pacemaking Earth Tremor, who was finishing in the runner-up spot for the fourth time on the trot.

The biggest cheers of the day were for Beth Roberts' 14-year-old Chesnut Annie who, partnered by Carmarthen's Emma Mosley, won the ladies' open race.

Chesnut Annie, who tried to break away from the field, was overtaken by the odds-on favourite Lauberhorn and Fine Resolve in the closing stages. But by the time the last fence was reached, she had got back in the race and was about half-a-length behind the fast-finishing odds-on favourite Lauberhorn, who came down leaving Chesnut Annie to score by a length from Fine Resolve.

Chesnut Annie, who was winning over the course for the sixth time, has now won 37 point-to-points and two hunter chases.

Fine Resolve's rider Rachel Leyshon won the first division of the maiden on Simon Jones' Stainless Steel. Simon, who hails from Maesteg, runs a pet cemetery in the area.

Matthew Barber, riding his father Gary's Kimora, the 5-1 outsider of four, took the opening intermediate race. A nine-year-old bay mare by Bach, Kimorais is trained by Matthew's older brother Marc.

Ben Hicks (20) will always remember his first ride in Wales as he chalked-up his first winner in just four rides when landing the young horse open maiden race on Triple Brandy which got home by half-a-length from the pacemaking Sahara Haze.

Ben rides out for Warren Greatrix at Lambourn and on this showing more wins will certainly be coming his way.

BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, March 24, a full programme of league matches was played. Llanharry, by defeating the Edmondes B 7-2, are confirmed as this year league champions.

However, with the Highwayman Inn defeating the Farmers Arms by the same 7-2 score, they are now tied with the Edmondes B in the race for the runners-up slot.

The Edmondes A, with their 8-1 victory over the Old Post Ladies, ensures that at least mathematically they can still finish runners-up. In the other match the Edmondes C beat the Hare and Hounds 5-4.

Present league standings after 19 matches, are: Llanharry (140 points), Edmondes B and Highwayman Inn (102), Edmondes A (94), Hare and Hounds (79), Farmer's Arms (68), Edmondes C (62) and Old Post Ladies (35).

On April 14, there is a full programme of league matches scheduled. The Edmondes A hosts the Edmondes C, the Old Post Ladies hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Farmers Arms hosts the Edmondes B and Llanharry hosts the Hare and Hounds.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

BOWLERS SEE ACTION!

COWBRIDGE bowling club members have been able to take advantage of the fine weather recently with roll ups.

Friendly matches have been arranged for both the men and ladies teams for later this month - good prepartion for the season ahead!

Monday afternoon social bowls starts on April 13; those wishing to participate should arrive by 1.45pm so that play can start at 2pm. Come and meet our new members.

For those who are at work on weekdays and have never played the game but would like to give it a try, someone will be available on Sunday afternoons on April 12, 19 and 26, to meet you and talk about the game.

You can also have a free taster session - for further information and to book a time contact Michael Bradley on 01446 773289.

You can find additional information about the club on our website, cowbridgebowling club.uk.

MB

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

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VIFC extend lead at top of the table

THE VIs bulldozed bottom side Knap FC 9-2 to move 14 points clear at the top of the league in preparation for this Sunday's Supporters Cup final.

Jordan Mortimore notched four goals, James Austin hit a brace with one each for Leigh Lewis, Aaron Rogers and Dean Cleave.

VI started slowly and Knap forced a couple of corners early on but it was from VI corners that the goals came.

Nicky Cox fired an early warning shot as his header was narrowly wide but minutes later, after a goalmouth scramble that saw Aaron Rogers effort cleared off the line, Mortimore fired in Reece Lewis' corner.

The lead was doubled when Austin nodded Lewis' corner in from close range and then made it three not long after in a carbon copy of Austin's first.

Halftime saw Leigh Lewis introduced off the bench and on the hour Dean Cleave and Richie Humphreys were brought on.

It was Humphreys' interception that broke to Courtney Goodwin, and his through ball found its way through to Leigh Lewis clean in on goal and he delightfully chipped the oncoming keeper.

Knap pulled one back as an in-swinging free kick found its way into the net from deep. VI didn't let it break their rhythm and Leigh Lewis played in Roger but his shot was just wide.

Leigh Lewis was involved again as he was picked out by Tony Charles on the right, and Lewis' left-footed cross was met with a diving header by Cleave into the bottom corner.

VI continued to push forward and Mortimore made it five from a Leigh Lewis throw-in that was dummied by Cleave for the skipper to flick over the defender and steer the ball past the keeper.

Charles was getting acres of space and his ball into Cleave was laid off to Rogers and finished with a powerful strike from the edge of the area, one the forward enjoyed, his first goal since the end of January.

Humphreys broke up the play again from the back, he picked out Leigh Lewis and he played in Mortimore to score.

VI rounded off their scoring after good work from R Lewis found Charles, who picked out Rogers. Rogers teed up Mortimore to finish past the hapless keeper to score his fourth of the afternoon and 56th goal of the season.

Knap pulled one back from the penalty spot right at the death after a hand ball, but it was merely a consolation.

Team: P.Lucas, R.Lewis, N.Cox, D.Garrison, J.Robinson, J.Laing, T.Charles, J.Austin, C.Goodwin, A.Rogers, J.Mortimore. Substitutes: L.Lewis, D.Cleave, R.Humphreys.

It was a good day for VI as their title rivals Wenvoe Arms lost 2-0 to Rhoose Rovers and VI moved 14 points clear, although Wenvoe do still have three games in hand.

VIFC can now look forward to the Supporters' Cup final against Tynewydd on Sunday, April 12, at Jenner Park. Kick off will be 2.15pm so come and support the side as they look to win their first trophy after coming so close last season.

Previous to their win over Knap, the VIs saw off Tynewydd 3-0 at a windswept Rhoose, Courtney Goodwin, Jamie Robinson and Jordan Mortimore with the goals.

Bill Laing's side started brightly as rain swept across the field, Courtney Goodwin finding plenty of room on the right hand side to take the ball into the box and fire the league leaders into an early lead.

Jamie Robinson doubled the advantage as the young full-back picked the ball up from deep on the right and drove into the area. He teed up Austin who screwed his shot wide.

The ball was picked up by Mortimore who whipped a low cross into the box for full back Robinson to turn the ball in from close range.

Captain Mortimore then got in on the act as the away keeper came to collect a high ball and collided with Mortimore. The keeper fumbled the ball and the VI leading scorer made no mistake.

Team: P.Lucas, J.Robinson, D.Garrison, N.Cox, R.Lewis, J.Laing, T.Charles, J.Austin, C.Goodwin, J.Mortimore, A.Rogers. Substitutes: R.West, S.Thomas.

Thank you to the fans who turned up to support the lads and have continued to support us throughout the season.

Likewise, we appreciate the continued backing from our sponsors - Owens Motor Services, Llandow. Higgsy Site Services, Barry, and The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan.

HD

CAMELOTS' CONQUEST...

but then are crushed!

WE are now getting to the business end of the season. There is only one month to go and each of our teams has only two games left in their respective fights for titles and promotion.

So let's start at division 4. The Gambits had a match against the North Cardiff Ravens. The Ravens are normally lingering at the bottom of the division. This year they have had something of a resurgence and find themselves in second place and likely to earn promotion.

So it was no surprise when the Gambits, who seem to be in freefall, having won only one of their last six games and needing to make two late changes to their team, succumbed to a big defeat.

The bright spot here was a win for David Jones against Duncan MacDonasld who is ranked 302 points above David.

In division 3 the Quarks did not have a game. Their two nearest rivals for promotion, Pontypridd Phoenix and Cardiff Cavaliers, both had something of a nightmare each only picking up a half point.

The Cardiff Crowns, with a big win, have come from nowhere to equal the Quarks on 44 points. The Quarks still hang onto third place by virtue of winning more match points only.

Promotion here could depend upon the Quarks' final match against the Cardiff Dragons who are in second place at the moment.

In division 1 the Bosons did not have a game and are now languishing in fourth place. Both the Camelots and the Cardiff Castles had two matches.

The Castles could only draw with the Caerphilly Kings and the Camelots earned the maximum of a 5-0 victory over the Nelson Rhinos so it was advantage to the Camelots.

A few days later the Camelots played the Castles. The Castles did not want to give up their title without a fight and selected a very strong team.

It was too strong for the Camelots and the Castles went home with a 4-1 victory under their belts. For Barry, Craig Woolcock won his matches against both Nelson and Cardiff, with Matthew Davies recording his first loss for Barry.

The Camelots are now in third place, 1.5 points behind the Castles and only behind the North Cardiff Woodpushers on tie break.

It seems likely the Castles will win their 13th title in the last 15 years unless something extraordinary happens.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

DINAS POWYS GOLF CLUB LADIES RESULTS

ON March 3, a nine hole stableford was held:

1st Audrey Harwood 20 points, 2nd Angela Brown (16) on back six from 3rd Pat Gosling (16), on back 6 from Louise Wilding (16).

On March 10, a nine hole medal: 1st Sue Bridle 44 - 9.5 = 34.5nett, 2nd Maxine Hird 48 - 10.5 =37.5 nett, 3rd Audrey Harwood 50 - 12 = 38 nett.

On March 17, a 18 hole Norwegian stableford: 1st Ann Mahenthiralingam, Sue Bridle, Annie Blackburn 102 points; 2nd Louise Wilding, Lisa Ryley, Ruth Yates 99; 3rd Angela Brown, Audrey Harwood, Vicki Ellison 88.

On March 17, a nine hole Norwegian stableford: 1st Terry Unwin, Angela Thomas, June Jones 42 points; 2nd Pam Warne, Jackie Lewis, Chris Nelms (41).

On March 24, a nine hole Texas scramble: 1st Angela Brown, Audrey Harwood, Mel King 41 - 13.33 = 27.67 nett, 2nd Moyra Smith, Terry Unwin 45 -16.75 =28.25 nett.

On March 31, a 18 hole Hi-Lo stableford: 1st Maxine Hird and Ruth Yates, 2nd Ann Mahenthiralingam & Pat Gosling, 3rd Sue Bridle & Annie Blackburn.

On March 31, a nine hole stableford: 1st Pam Warne.

Congratulations to Maxine Hird on scoring a superb hole in one on the 18th hole on March 31.

It was her first hole in one and she celebrated this feat in the traditional way by buying all the ladies a drink; thanks Max.

RY

Skittlers gear up for championships

WELSH skittles aces, the Barry Stars women's team, are gearing up for the forthcoming Butcombe British Skittles championships, whose qualifying rounds begin next month.

Last year they were the only Welsh team to reach the finals, but they had such a good time that they're getting together a second team for the mixed competition this year.

In their two year history in the competition, Barry Stars reached the quarter finals at their first attempt in 2013.

Last year they qualified for the finals once again but exited gracefully after the first round to former champions the Sinners from Exeter.

First round losers automatically entered the women's Plate competition and the team valiantly reached the semi-finals before going out to the St John's Rollers from Weston Super Mare

Captained by Toni Lambert this year, the team play out of the Sea View Club.

More than 150 teams from all over the UK regularly compete in the Butcombe championships, which begin with a series of knockout rounds from April through to August.

The 64 finalists then converge on Torquay's Riviera International Conference Centre in September to battle it out for trophies, prize money and Butcombe beer.

If you are interested in entering a team, please visit www.seriousaboutevents.co.uk.

Rugby club celebrate milestone against local rivals on Saturday

SATURDAY sees a landmark for Llantwit Major RFC as we host Cowbridge.

While this is a local derby against our near neighbours, it will also commemorate the first recorded fixture played by Llantwit Major RFC way back in 1889 which was against Cowbridge.

Both clubs have come a long way since then and celebrate many successes. Llantwit, of course, are double silver ball winners back in the 1960's and who can forget last season's visit to the Millennium Stadium for the SWALEC Bowl final.

Following early season promise, Llantwit have fallen off the pace of late and see themselves currently in fourth position in the league and will be looking to bounce back from last week's defeat against a strong Old Illtydians team.

It is testament to the club that the side has taken the field for every game given that a number of players left the club pre-season due to work commitments and there have been a number of injuries.

The club has organised a special day this Saturday and has invited all past captains and sponsors to a pre-match buffet to celebrate the 125th anniversary. It is hoped that the community will also get involved and come down and make the day special.

As with all local derbies this will be keenly contested although Cowbridge will be hoping to avoid the crushing defeat they suffered at the hands of Llantwit at home back in December.

Despite being reduced to 14 men, Llantwit managed to win 32-3; it would be the ultimate fillip if they could record a similar result this Saturday in front of their home fans.

It has been a long season for Cowbridge as they have seemed to struggle with the change in divisions and they are joint second from bottom on 17 points.

With four games left to go Llantwit will be keen to end the season with a run of four victories.

Last weekend two of the club's junior section set off on tour. The under-13s visited Holland and the under-15s and 16s went to Ghent.

Both age groups took part in tournaments made up of teams from all over Europe and the club is pleased to announce that both were victorious and lifted the cups.

It appears that the club's future is bright and the continued dedication of parents and coaches who take time on a Sunday to run the section is something the club is proud of.

The club has also been nominated for a Llantwit Major Town Citizen Award and will find out on April 18 whether it has been successful. It would be appropriate in its 125th year that the club is recognised for its part in the community of Llantwit Major.

The club hopes that a dry day will be had and many of you will take some time out and line the touchlines of the Rec to cheer the squad and club on.

NE

Barrivale bridge club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 31:

1st Celia & Huw Thomas 59.72%; 2nd Helen Jordan & Judith Owen 55.56%; 3rd Diana Kendrick & Alan Jones 54.17%; Celia and Huw Thomas also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

Wales under-21s are off to a flying start!
See report on page 39

Barry cricket club kick off their anniversary season

BARRY Athletic Cricket Club start the 2015 season, a season which will be their 125th anniversary, with a pre-season friendly against local rivals Dinas Powys on Saturday afternoon at The Athletic Ground, Barry Island.

The following Saturday, April 18, the club are holding their 125th anniversary celebration dinner at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, with a 7pm start.

There are still a few places left for the dinner and if anyone is interested in attending they can contact Mark Rees on 07570135831 or via e-mail on markrees509@hotmail.com.

MR